G戦場ヘヴンズドア

日本橋ヨヲコ

3

戦場のヴァルキュリア

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"BUT WE'RE ALWAYS ALONE," HE SAID. "NO AMOUNT OF COMPANIONSHIP WILL EVER CHANGE THAT,"
I REMEMBER TELLING MY DAD WHEN I WAS LITTLE THAT I FELT SO ALONE, BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.
AND MY SENSE OF LONELINESS ONLY GREW.

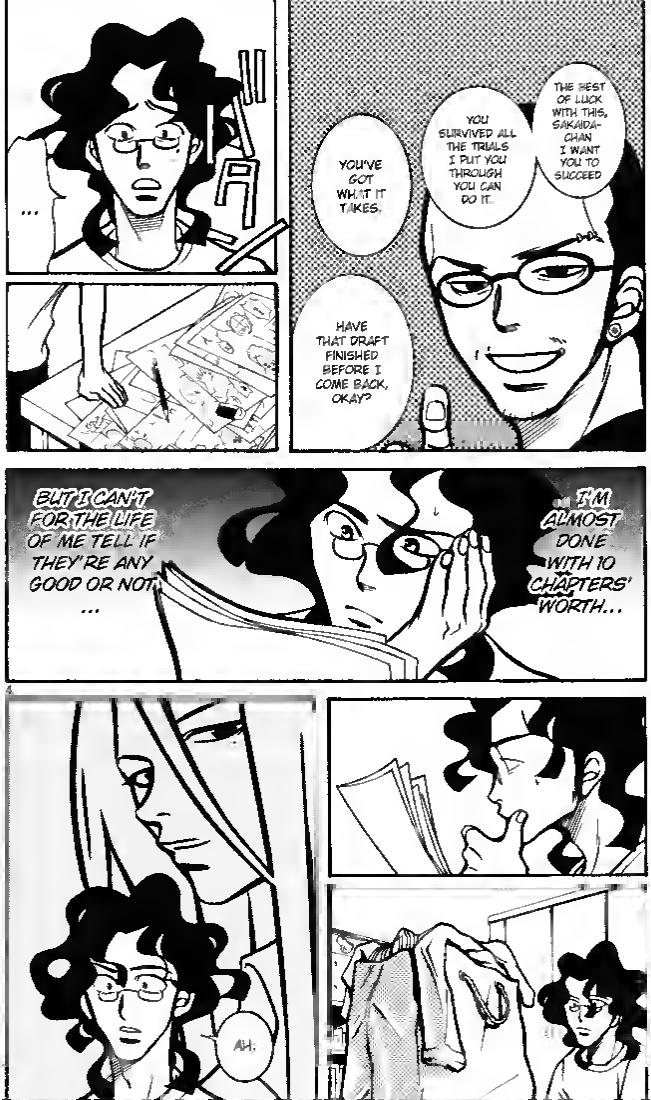
WITH A PLACID LOOK OF CONTENT-MENT ON HIS FACE
BUT HE WAS SMILING AS HE SAID THOSE WORDS,

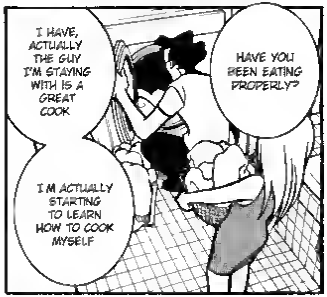
"GOODBYE, SAKAIDA-KUN."
10 YEARS LATER, MY CLOSEST FRIEND SAID TO ME...
AS HE WENT HIS OWN WAY.

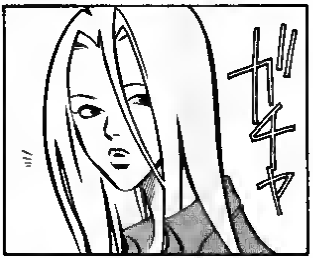
www.mangascreener.com
Translation: summersoldier
Scans: Gatsu
Edits: Jinadgren

Air. 13: Not Understanding

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON MY MANGA EVER SINCE,
MAYBE MY EARS WERE PLAYING TRICKS,
BUT I DID IN FACT HEAR THOSE WORDS
TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HE MEANT
I UNDERSTAND. YES, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE
OH NO, DON'T MENTION IT.
OKAY, I'M ON MY WAY
SAKAIDA-CHAN I HAVE TO GO OVER AND HELP SOMEONE WITH HIS MANGA
I'LL BE BACK TOMOR ROW EVENING
WHAT?
WAIT A MINUTE, INO-SAN.
WELL THESE PEOPLE NEED ME I CAN'T LET THEM DOWN
IT JUST WASN'T MEANT TO BE THIS TIME AROUND
INO-SAN!
YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORK ON OTHER PEOPLE'S STUFF
That's all you've been doing lately!
WE HAVE TO SUBMIT OUR DRAFTS BY THE 1ST OF SEPTEMBER!
8月
30


...
THE BEST OF LUCK WITH THIS, SAKAIDA-CHAN! I WANT YOU TO SUCCEED
YOU SURVIVED ALL THE TRIALS I PUT YOU THROUGH! YOU CAN DO IT.
YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES.
HAVE THAT DRAFT FINISHED BEFORE I COME BACK, OKAY?
I'M ALMOST DONE WITH 10 CHAPTERS' WORTH...
BUT I CAN'T FOR THE LIFE OF ME TELL IF THEY'RE ANY GOOD OR NOT.
...
AH.


I HAVE, ACTUALLY THE GUY I'M STAYING WITH IS A GREAT COOK
HAVE YOU BEEN EATING PROPERLY?
I'M ACTUALLY STARTING TO LEARN HOW TO COOK MYSELF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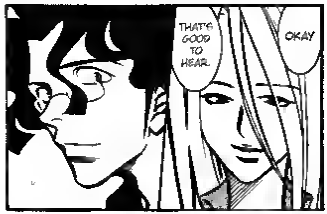
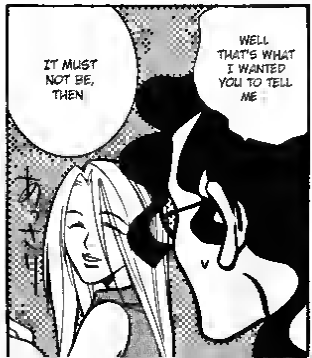
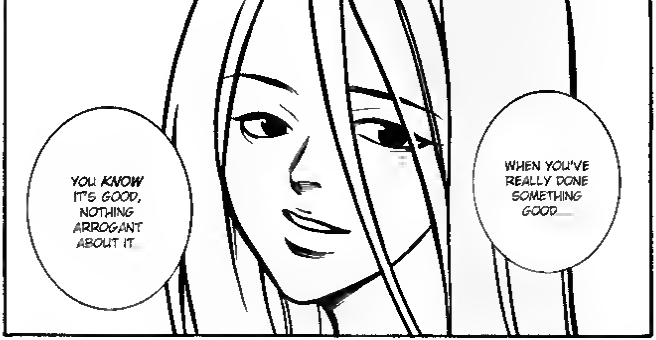
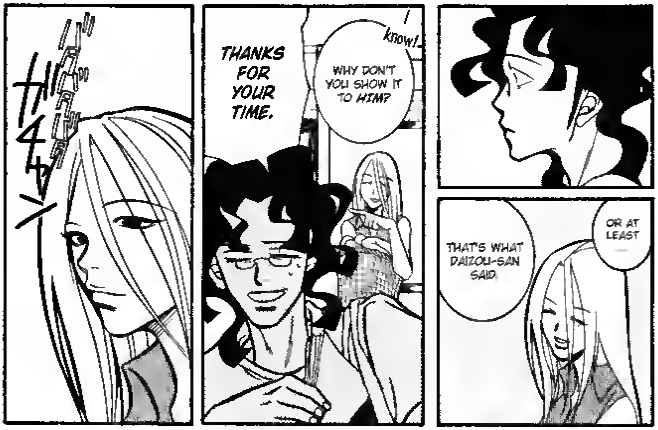

OKAY
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

I CAME TO GET FRESH CLOTHES
MACHIZO
I'M TOO BUSY WITH MY MANGA TO DO ANY WASHING

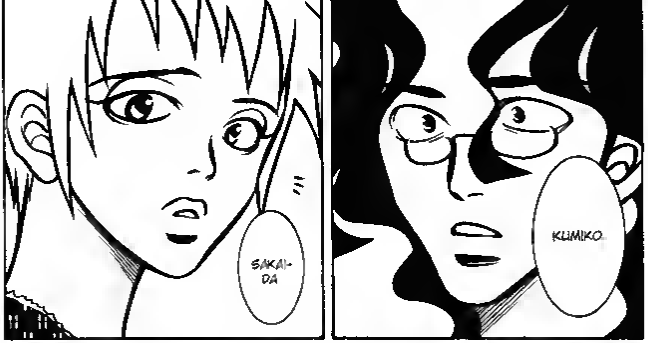

WELL THAT'S WHAT I WANTED YOU TO TELL ME
IT MUST NOT BE, THEN
あっ…

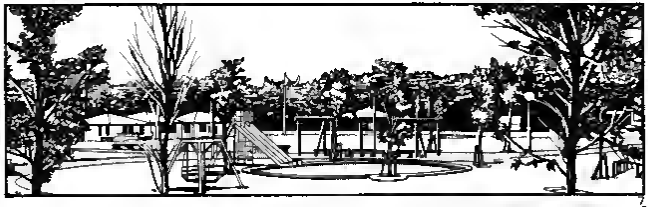
Um... YUMIKO-SAN.
IT'S MY NEW MANGA. I WAS HOPING YOU COULD READ IT AND...
OH
IS IT ANY GOOD?


YOU KNOW IT'S GOOD, NOTHING ARROGANT ABOUT IT.
WHEN YOU'VE REALLY DONE SOMETHING GOOD...

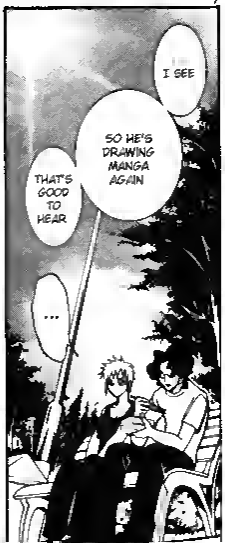

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME.
WHY DON'T YOU SHOW IT TO HIM?
I know!
THAT'S WHAT DAIZOU-SAN SAID.
OR AT LEAST...

HASEGAWA SHOP


SAKAI-DA
KUMIKO

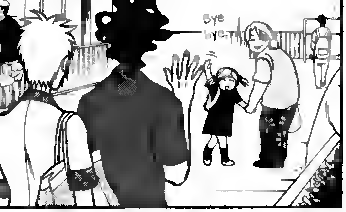


NO IT'S FINE IT WON'T GO TO WASTE THAT WAY
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T MIND ME EATING THIS?
YOU MADE IT FOR TETSUO, RIGHT?

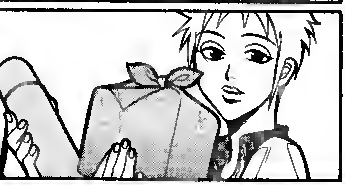

I SEE
SO HE'S DRAWING MANGA AGAIN
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR
...

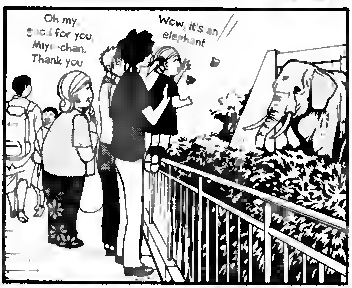
I DELIVER IT TO HIS DOOR EVERYDAY
BUT I CAN'T GET MYSELF TO ACTUALLY GIVE IT TO HIM

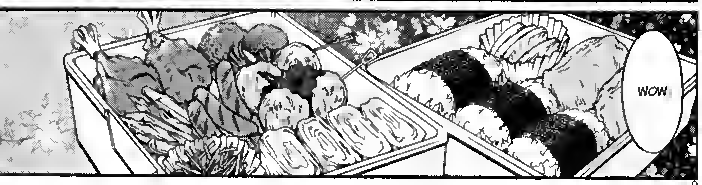
HEY
DO YOU WANNA GO TO THE ZOO TOMORROW?
THERE'S STILL ANOTHER DAY LEFT UNTIL SCHOOL STARTS
IT'S NOT OVER YET
YOU LOOK REALLY PALE
NO
DID YOU GO ANYWHERE DURING THE HOLIDAYS?
I DIDN'T GET TO
Pocari
MIYASHITA ZOO
PRAAHHH
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT YOU LOOK SO OUT OF PLACE HERE
What the hell are you laughing for?
DUDE HIS EYES
THEY'RE SO SCARY
WOW, IT'S SO BIG


Bye
Miyu-chan

I can't see




Oh my
Thank you, Miyu-chan. Thank you.
Wow, it's an elephant


WOW

THANKS

THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE TO DO IT FOR YOU?
WELL THERE'S MY MOM.
BUT HER JOB TAKES HER ALL OVER THE GLOBE SO SHE'S NEVER HOME
HERE HAVE SOME TEA

DAMN THIS IS AWESOME FOOD
WELL I'VE BEEN COOKING SINCE I WAS LITTLE

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
LOOKS LIKE HE GOT LOST
Sniff...
Sniff...
I SEE
WHAT IF I NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN..
I GOT LOST.. AND I CAN'T FIND DADDY OR MOMMY
hic
hic
hic...
NO WAIT
Waaah Waaah Waaah
SHOULD WE REPORT HIM TO THE LOST CHILD CENTER?
HEY KID
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
Sniff...
Sniff...

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'RE GOOD AT?
I CAN SING THAT SONG WE LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN
OKAY
LET'S HEAR YOU SING IT REALLY LOUD
TWO, THREE
SAKAI-DA!
Waaah
YOU BETTER ACQUIRE SOME SKILLS AND LEARN TO COPE ON YOUR OWN THEN IT'S A TOUGH WORLD OUT THERE

And on his farm he had a duck, E-I-E-I-O
OLD
COME ON, YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT
Old McDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O
HEY NOT BAD
With a quack-quack here and a quack-quack there...
KOJI! WHERE ARE YOU?
11
I'm sorry
Come on Shoko you have to watch out for him
THANK YOU SO MUCH
WE LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU
DAD! MOM!
Thank G...
Guess they were choosing the John Woo little brother
KOJI!
HONEY, ISN'T THAT KOJI SINGING?

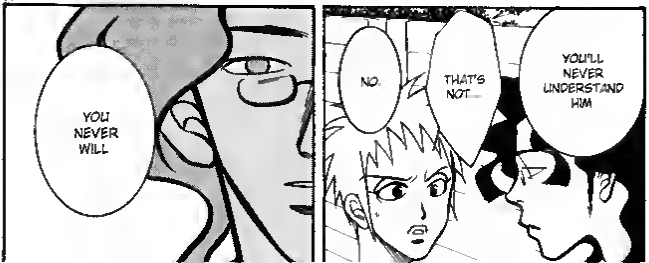
AND PEOPLE WILL HEAR YOU
YOU'VE JUST GOTTA RAISE YOUR VOICE
Heh
"...MACHIZO SAKAIDA NEVER IMAGINED IT AT THE TIME BUT IT WAS THIS EXPERIENCE THAT INSPIRED YOUNG KOJI TO PURSUE A SINGING CAREER, AND LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR HIS EVENTUAL STARDOM."
HOW'S THAT?
Hey, did you know they have an aquarium here too? Come on, let's go
...
YEAH
I THOUGHT YOU WERE BUSY?
I HEARD YOU WERE COMPETING FOR A SERIES IN A MAGAZINE
HMM.
YEAH
12
NOPE
IS IT FINISHED ?!
TOMORROW?!
WHEN'S THE DEADLINE?
TOMORROW
WHA...YOU SHOULDN'T BE WASTING YOUR TIME HERE!
WE HAVE TO...

WOW, LOOK AT THOSE DOLPHINS.
DAMN, INTELLI-GENT
YOU KNOW...
WE NEVER WOULD'VE SEEN THEM IF WE HADN'T COME HERE TODAY
NO ONE EVER STAYS THE SAME. YOU'LL BE A DIFFERENT PERSON TOMORROW. AND THOSE DOLPHINS TOO.
THIS MOMENT WILL NEVER COME AGAIN.
TIME CAN BE MANIPULATED AS WE LIKE ON PAPER. BUT THINGS DON'T WORK LIKE THAT IN REAL LIFE.
AND THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING.
SO WE HAVE TO APPRECIATE IT WHILE WE CAN.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR MANGA
THANKS FOR TAKING ME OUT TODAY.
AND ME I'LL TRY TO
NO, I SHOULD GET HOME
DO YOU WANNA EAT AT MY PLACE?
OKAY, I GUESS I BETTER GET BACK TO THE APARTMENT TOO

FORGET ABOUT THIS "TRYING" BUSINESS

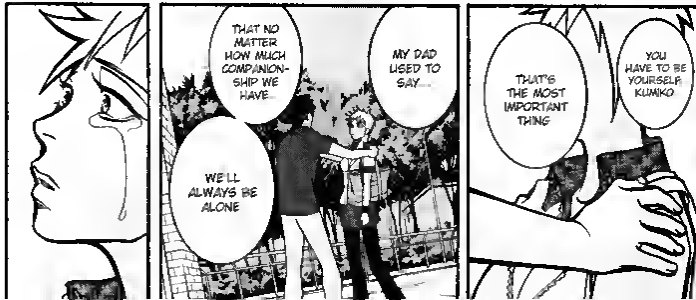
DON'T EVEN THINK YOU CAN DO ANYTHING FOR TETSUO


YOU NEVER WILL
NO.
THAT'S NOT...
YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HIM

YOU CAN PRETEND TO BE HIS SWEETHEART ALL YOU WANT...
BUT YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND A SINGLE THING.
NOTHING YOU DO WILL EVER HEAL HIS PAIN
16
BUT KUMIKO,
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT
...HOW DO YOU...
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
WHY CAN'T I BE WHAT HE NEEDS?
HOW DO I KNOW? BECAUSE WE'RE THE SAME HE AND I
ALL WE WANT...
IS TO JUST UNDER-STAND OUR-SELVES

MANGA FOR US IS LIKE THERAPY.
WE NEED TO KEEP ON AT IT TO MAINTAIN OUR SANITY.

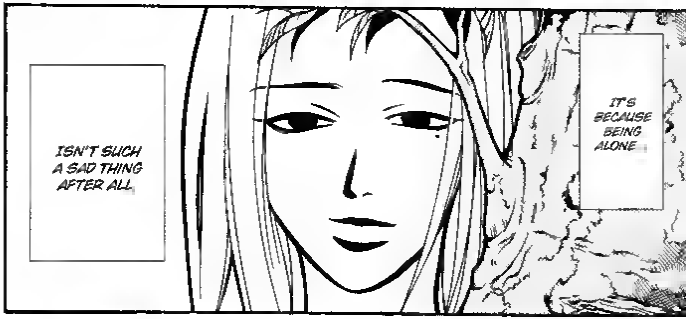
FIND HAPPINESS SOME DAY?
SAKAI-DA.
DO YOU THINK THAT WE'LL EVER...


THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH COMPANION-SHIP WE HAVE...
MY DAD USED TO SAY...
WE'LL ALWAYS BE ALONE
THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING
YOU HAVE TO BE YOURSELF KUMIKO

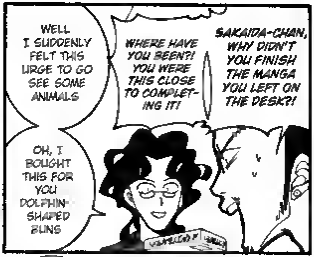
KUMIKO SUGAWARA.
BUT YOURSELF,
NOT TETSUO HASEGAWA'S SWEETHEART ...
YOU HAVE TO BE YOURSELF.
I WILL BE MACHIZO SAKAIDA.
AND I'LL TRY TO DO THE SAME THING.

AND SOMEDAY ...
AND SOMEDAY ?

WHY DAD WAS SMILING
I THINK I CAN UNDER-STAND NOW.


ISN'T SUCH A SAD THING AFTER ALL.
IT'S BECAUSE BEING ALONE

ANYWAY, I IMAGINE YOU'RE PRETTY TIRED NOW.
LET'S ATTEND THE RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT THOUGH. WE HAVE TO FACE UP TO OUR FAILURE

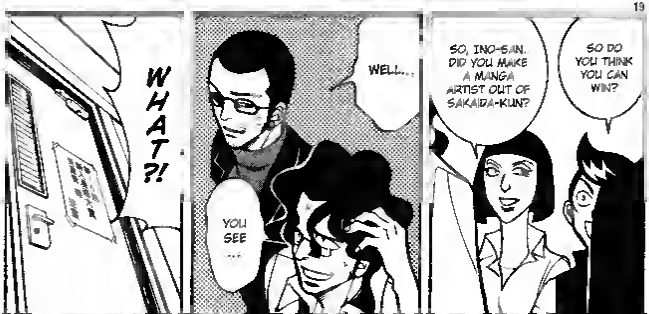

WELL I SUDDENLY FELT THIS URGE TO GO SEE SOME ANIMALS
OH, I BOUGHT THIS FOR YOU DOLPHIN-SHAPED BUNS
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! YOU WERE THIS CLOSE TO COMPLET-ING IT!
SAKAIDA-CHAN, WHY DIDN'T YOU FINISH THE MANGA YOU LEFT ON THE DESK?!
WAHELLO!

I'M HOME

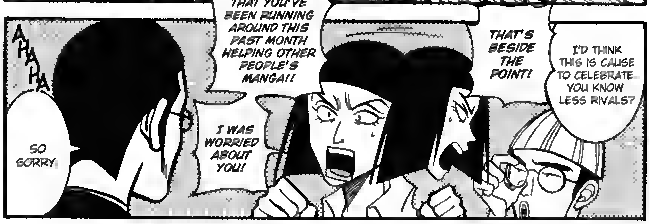
LET ME DO THE COOKING TODAY
You don't mind natto spaghetti do you?

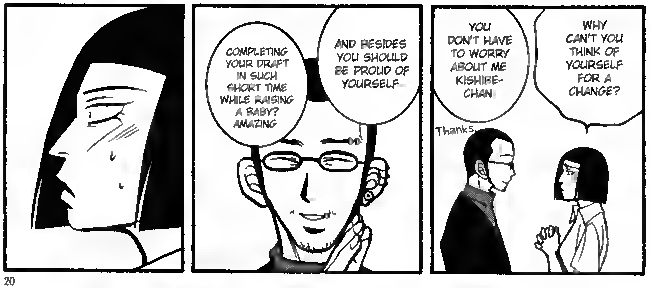
I'M GONNA FORFEIT THIS TIME WITH YOU
Ooh, they look so lovely ♡
...THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!

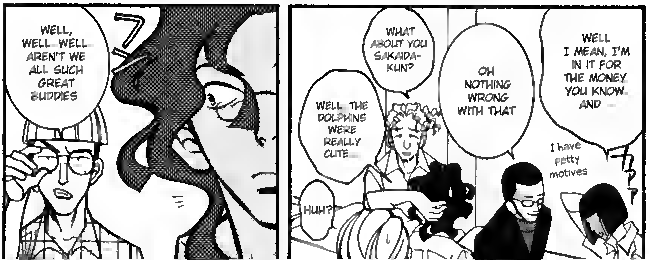
HEY
GOD, I FEEL SO OUT OF PLACE...
YES, WE'RE KIND OF USELESS HERE SEEING AS HOW WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SHOW...
OH
THERE THEY ARE
The Results Announcement
WHOA
LONG TIME NO SEE GUYS.
SAKAI-DA!
IT WAS SO STRESSING I GAINED EVEN MORE WEIGHT.
YOU LOOK SO WORN OUT KISHIBE-CHAN
ME I'M AS HEALTHY AS A GUY CAN BE
YEAH THE DEADLINE'S BEEN KEEPING ME AWAKE AT NIGHTS


WHAT?!
WELL...
YOU SEE....
SO, INO-SAN. DID YOU MAKE A MANGA ARTIST OUT OF SAKAIDA-KUN?
SO DO YOU THINK YOU CAN WIN?

YOU'RE FORFEITING?! BOTH OF YOU?!
WHAT THE HELL?!
MY ART DID IMPROVE TO BE SURE...
BUT I COULDN'T COME UP WITH ANY THING GOOD


INO-SAN, I HEARD RUMORS THAT YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND THIS PAST MONTH HELPING OTHER PEOPLE'S MANGA!!
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU!!
THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT!
I'D THINK THIS IS CAUSE TO CELEBRATE YOU KNOW LESS RIVALS?
AHAHA
SO SORRY!


COMPLETING YOUR DRAFT IN SUCH SHORT TIME WHILE RAISING A BABY? AMAZING
AND BESIDES YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF YOURSELF
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME KISHIRE-CHAN!
WHY CAN'T YOU THINK OF YOURSELF FOR A CHANGE?
Thanks.


WELL, WELL, WELL... AREN'T WE ALL SUCH GREAT BUDDIES
WHAT ABOUT YOU SAKAIDA-KUN?
OH NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT
WELL I MEAN, I'M IN IT FOR THE MONEY YOU KNOW... AND...
I have petty motives
WELL THE DOLPHINS WERE REALLY CUTE...
HUH??

なーにが
だはは
だはは
IS IT ANY WONDER THAT MANGA EDITORS COMPLAIN ABOUT HOW UNMOTIVATED ROOKIE ARTISTS ARE THESE DAYS?
I'M APPALLED AT HOW LIGHTLY YOU'RE ALL TAKING THIS THIS IS OUR BATTLEFIELD, YOU KNOW.

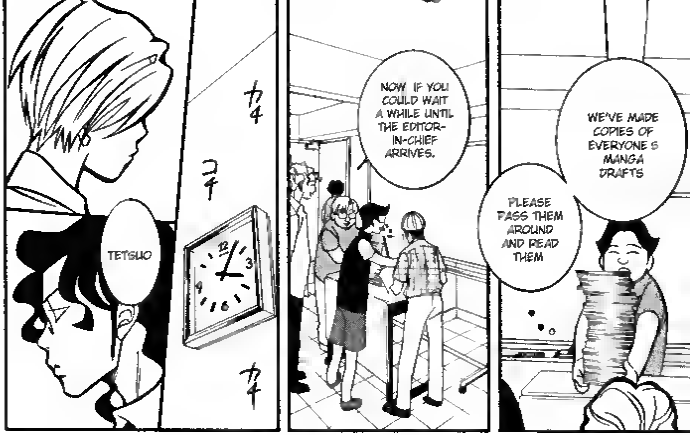
HMPF
BEING YOUR USUAL SELF?
YOU EVEN SPIED ON ME AND FOR WHAT? TO FORFEIT OUT OF THE GAME?

VERY WELL THEN YOU'RE ALL JUST STEPPING STONES IN MY CAREER, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED
I'VE WORKED SO HARD FOR THIS TO BE HAILED AS THE SECOND COMING OF SHUKOH ISHINAMI.

PLEASE BE SEATED EVERYONE.

TETSUO
AND SO IT STARTS

DO YOU NOT FIND THAT GALLING, PEOPLE?!
THEY'RE ALWAYS COMPARING US TO SHUKOH ISHINAMI'S FIRST YEARS ...
あそり
NO, NOT REALLY.


TETSUO
NOW IF YOU COULD WAIT A WHILE UNTIL THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ARRIVES.
WE'VE MADE COPIES OF EVERYONE'S MANGA DRAFTS
PLEASE PASS THEM AROUND AND READ THEM

SHE LET ME EAT IT ONCE
KUMIKO MADE LUNCH FOR YOU
IT WAS AWESOME YOU SHOULD ASK HER FOR THEM NEXT TIME
EVERYDAY DURING SUMMER BREAK. SHE COULD NEVER DELIVER IT TO YOUR DOOR THOUGH

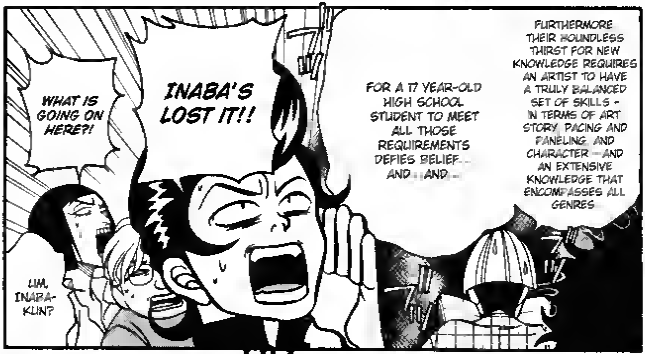
HA. YOU SHOULD BE TALKING LOOK AT THIS
IT'S NOT BAD THOUGH
HAHA WHAT'S UP WITH THIS OTAKU FIGHTING MANGA?
AHAHA

WILL YOU PLEASE BE QUIET?!

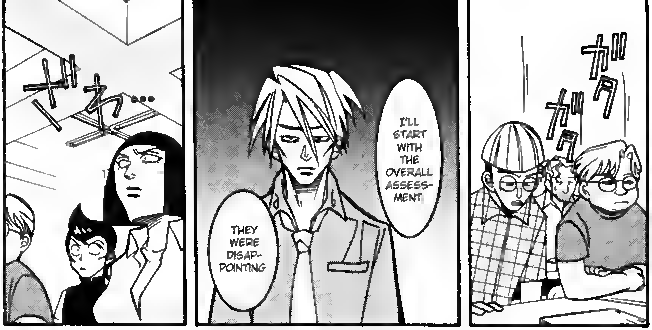
あはは
ANYTHING THAT FILLS MY STOM..CH WILL DO.

NO IT'S OKAY
I DON'T REALLY HAVE THAT MUCH TIME TO SPEND ON EATING
SO THERE'S NO NEED

I'VE ALWAYS FELT AN ARTIST NEEDS ALL-ROUND ABILITIES TO SUCCEED IN SHONEN MANGA
BECAUSE CHILDREN, THEY HAVE A MERCILESSLY SHORT ATTENTION SPAN AND ARE THE MOST DEMANDING DEMOGRAPHIC
YEAH, WHAT'S UP?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, INABA-KUN?
HA... HAHA
OH, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU READ THIS


WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?!
INABA'S LOST IT!!
FOR A 17 YEAR-OLD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TO MEET ALL THOSE REQUIREMENTS DEFIES BELIEF... AND... AND...
FURTHERMORE THEIR BOUNDLESS THIRST FOR NEW KNOWLEDGE REQUIRES AN ARTIST TO HAVE A TRULY BALANCED SET OF SKILLS - IN TERMS OF ART, STORY, PACING AND PANELING, AND CHARACTER — AND AN EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE THAT ENCOMPASSES ALL GENRES
UM, INABA-KUN?

He comes
HASEGAWA-KUN, WHAT EXACTLY WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR...?!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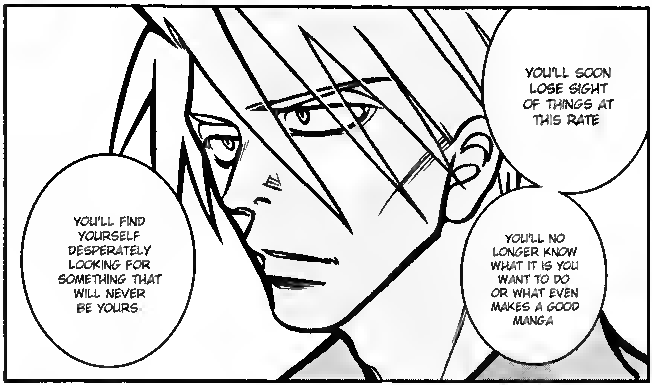
I'LL START WITH THE OVERALL ASSESS-MENT
THEY WERE DISAP-POINTING


YOU'LL SOON LOSE SIGHT OF THINGS AT THIS RATE
YOU'LL NO LONGER KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU WANT TO DO OR WHAT EVEN MAKES A GOOD MANGA
YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR SOMETHING THAT WILL NEVER BE YOURS

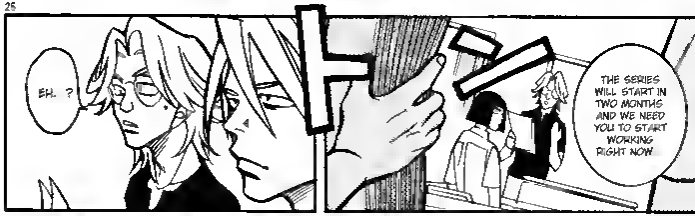
AN UTTER EXERCISE IN FUTILITY
WE'VE NO USE FOR FAKE "ORIGINALITY"
NONE OF YOU CAN BE ANYONE OTHER THAN YOURSELVES
WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING THAT ONLY YOU CAN CREATE, AND NOTHING ELSE.

YOU DON'T "PRACTICE" MANGA
YOU AWAKEN TO IT.

GOING AGAINST YOUR TRUE SELF...
WILL ONLY LEAD TO YOUR EVENTUAL DESTRUCTION.

TETSUO HASEGAWA
WITH THAT IN MIND HERE IS THE RESULT
THE SPOT IN SHONEN FIGHT WILL GO TO...
YEAH
AS IF YOU CAN LOOK INTO THE FUTURE.
TRUST ME IT WILL.

SO, LIM
PLEASURE TO WORK WITH YOU HASEGAWA KUN
THIS IS SAKAIDE HE WILL BE YOUR EDITOR.
お生
...
お生
IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE ANYONE ELSE
Let me see !
OF COURSE IT'S HIM.
WHAT IS IT THAT GOOD?!


EH. ?
トン
THE SERIES WILL START IN TWO MONTHS AND WE NEED YOU TO START WORKING RIGHT NOW

I'VE ALREADY DONE THE FIRST BATCH OF CHAPTERS

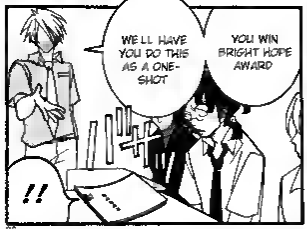
TO RENT A STUDIO AND HIRE ASSISTANTS
FOR WHAT?
I'D LIKE TO BORROW ABOUT A MILLION YEN'S WORTH OF PAYMENT IN ADVANCE WITH THIS
ANYTHING THAT NEEDS TO BE FIXED I'LL FIX IMMEDIATELY
WOW!

TETSUO!
VERY WELL THEN
AND MACHIZO SAKAIDA
I SEE YOU'RE ALL READY TO GO
WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL THEN?
I INTEND TO DROP OUT.
WHY DID YOU FORFEIT?
Y... YES?
27
BECAUSE OF SOMETHING ELSE THAT WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME.
I KNOW AN ARTIST WHO SAID THE SAME THING ONCE.
OH GEEZ

DAIZOU SAKAI

HMPH

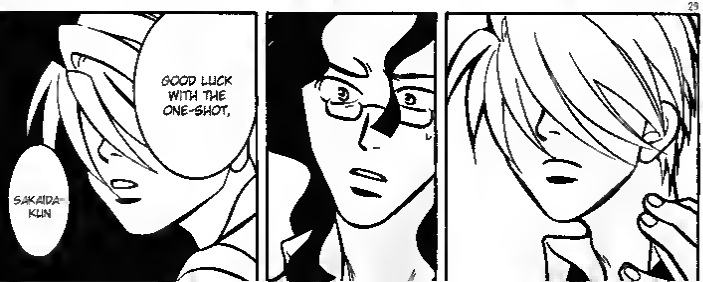
YES

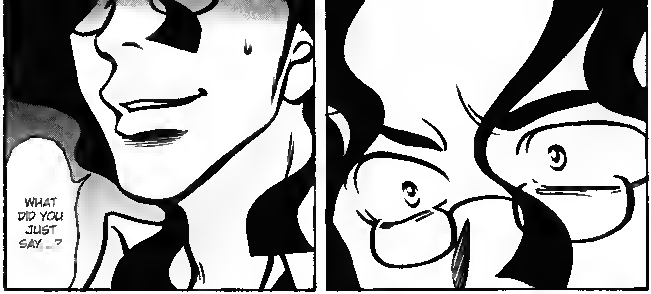

WE'LL HAVE YOU DO THIS AS A ONE-SHOT
YOU WIN BRIGHT HOPE AWARD
!!

I CAN SEE DAD SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT

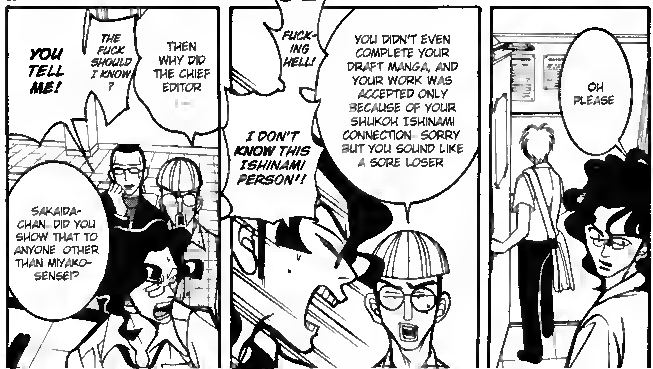
HOW DID YOU GET HOLD OF ...
WHAT ...

YOU HAVE SHUKOH ISHINAMI TO THANK
YAMADA HAS VOLUNTEERED TO BE YOUR EDITOR
THAT IS ALL YOU ARE DISMISSED
... HUH?
SHIT, JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT MEDICAL SCH—
WHY THE HELL DO YOU ALWAYS GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF LIKE THAT?!
HEY
HEY
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE DROPPING ...
I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND
TETSUO!!


GOOD LUCK WITH THE ONE-SHOT,
SAKAIDA-KUN


WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY, _?

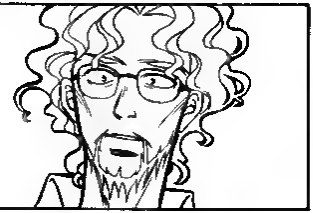
GOOD LUCK?
HAHA
GOOD LUCK?!
MAN, YOU'VE REALLY COME FAR, HAVEN'T YOU? ALREADY TALKING DOWN TO ME LIKE A PRO, EH?


OH PLEASE
YOU DIDN'T EVEN COMPLETE YOUR DRAFT MANGA, AND YOUR WORK WAS ACCEPTED ONLY BECAUSE OF YOUR SHUKOH ISHINAMI CONNECTION. SORRY BUT YOU SOUND LIKE A SORE LOSER
FUCK-ING HELL!
I DON'T KNOW THIS ISHINAMI PERSON!!
THEN WHY DID THE CHIEF EDITOR
THE FUCK SHOULD I KNOW?
YOU TELL ME!
SAKAIDA-CHAN, DID YOU SHOW THAT TO ANYONE OTHER THAN MIYAKO-SENSEI?

WELL YEAH, BUT SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE MANGA BUSINESS
WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH SAKAI-SENSEI?

ガチャ
キィ

WITH DAD...?

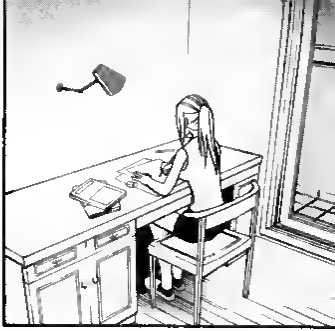


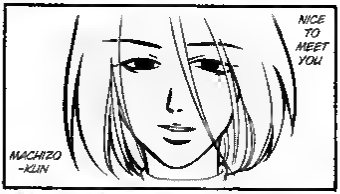
SAKAIDA-CHAN?

SO...
YOU'RE FINALLY UP TO DRAWING AGAIN...?

THERE IS...
ONE PERSON

IT WAS 6 YEARS AGO WHEN SAIKOH ISHINAMI RETIRED FROM SHONEN FIGHT...
AND IT WAS ALSO 6 YEARS AGO WHEN YUMIKO-SAN CAME TO OUR HOUSE AS DAD'S MANAGER.




NICE TO MEET YOU
MACHIZO -KUN

WHO IS IT SAKAIDA-CHAN?
UM SAKAIDA-CHAN?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
ARE YOU OKAY?

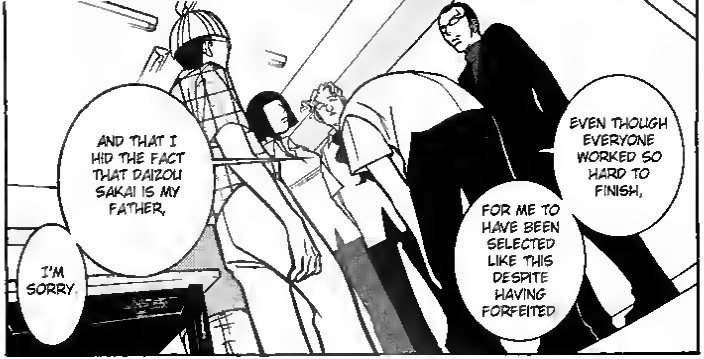
Air. 14 : Not Realizing

IT'S NOT JUST A COINCIDENCE THEIR PATHS CROSSED.

"YOU'LL BE MEETING DAIZOU AT THE AWARDS CEREMONY."
"SPECIAL MERIT AWARD, 200,000 YEN ISN'T ENOUGH AT ALL."
"DID YOU DRAW THAT?!"
THIS ISN'T JUST A MATTER OF SIMILAR TASTES OR PERSONALITIES
"HOW IS IT THAT YOU UNDERSTAND?"
"I HATE MANGA."
I HATE YOU!!

"I'M GOING TO MEDICAL SCHOOL."
"TETSUO'S MOTHER DOESN'T HAVE MUCH LONGER."
MY DAD ABANDONED MOM FOR HIS MANGA CAREER.
"THANK GOD."
AND TO INSPIRE YOU TO DRAW AGAIN.
"GOODBYE, SAKAIDA."
AS IF THEY WERE BOUND BY A PROMISE AND DESPITE WALKING DOWN DIFFERENT PATHS,
"THIS TIME, TETSUO HASEGAWA WAS CHOSEN FOR SERIALIZATION."
WHY DOES THE CHIEF EDITOR HAVE THE DRAFT I WROTE FOR KUMIKO?
"YOU HAVE TO THANK SHUKOH ISHINAMI."
"MACHIZOU SAKAIDA, WE'LL HAVE YOU MAKE THIS A ONE-SHOT."

— BEFORE THEY KNEW IT, MANY DOTS HAVE FORMED A LINE.


I'M SORRY.
AND THAT I HID THE FACT THAT DAIZOU SAKAI IS MY FATHER.
FOR ME TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED LIKE THIS DESPITE HAVING FORFEITED
EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE WORKED SO HARD TO FINISH,

SO IF YOU'VE GOT TIME TO APOLOGIZE, START DRAWING.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M DOING THIS AS A HOBBY,
THEY GAVE PRIORITY TO THOSE THEY NEEDED, THAT'S ALL.

JUST SHUT UP!
FUCK OFF, INABA!
SO YOU WERE RECOMMENDED BY SHUKOH ISHINAMI BECAUSE OF YOUR DAD'S CONNECTIONS?

I COULDN'T CARE LESS
THERE'S NO WAY PULLING STRINGS WOULD WORK ON THAT CHIEF EDITOR.

...NAH.
WHY ARE YOU SMILING, SAKAIDA?

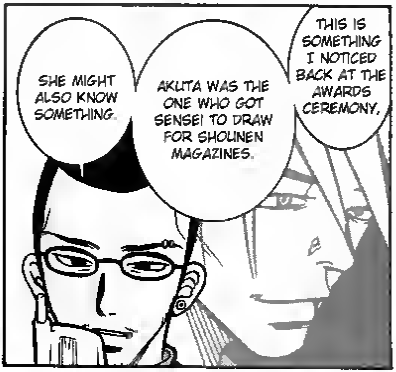
SERIOU-SLY!?
BUT YOU KNOW, I ALREADY NOTICED THAT HE'S YOUR FATHER DURING THE AWARDS CEREMONY. BUT I DIDN'T TELL YOU BECAUSE YOU SEEMED ROTHERED BY IT...
YOU TWO DO LOOK ALIKE.
ALTHOUGH, YOUR FATHER HAS MORE CLASS.
.....
GOT IT.

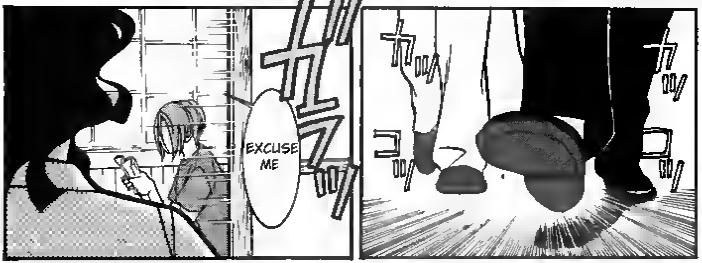
LET'S MEET MIYAKO SENSEI TOMORROW AND FIND OUT SHUKOH ISHINAMI'S IDENTITY
SAKAIDA.
WHY TO MIYAKO SENSEI'S PLACE?

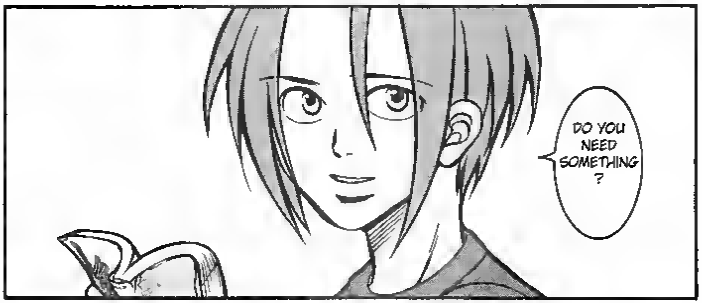
BE IT INABA OR ANY OF THE OTHERS,
THEY ARE HONEST AND SAY WHAT THEY REALLY FEEL.
I'M GRATEFUL FOR THAT.

THAT'S TRUE.
THEY ARE KIND IN THEIR HARSHNESS.

WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THE CHIEF EDITOR?
THE HONEST KIND.
AH.

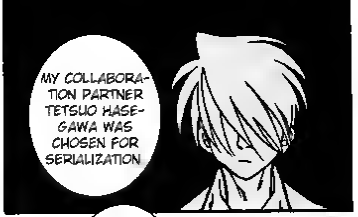

THIS IS SOMETHING I NOTICED BACK AT THE AWARDS CEREMONY.
AKUTA WAS THE ONE WHO GOT SENSEI TO DRAW FOR SHOUNEN MAGAZINES.
SHE MIGHT ALSO KNOW SOMETHING.


EXCUSE ME


DO YOU NEED SOMETHING ?

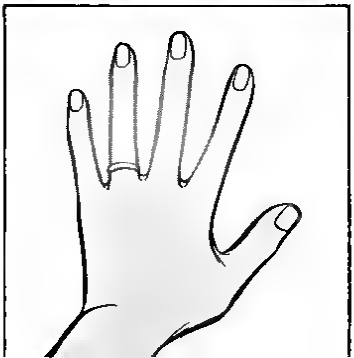
HOW DID IT GO?
THEY ANNOUNCED THE DECISION ON THE SERIALIZATION, YESTERDAY
IT'S FINE
I'M SORRY FOR TAKING UP YOUR TIME

WHY IS SHUKOH ISHINAMI
WORKING AS DAIZOU SAKAI'S MANAGER?!


MY COLLABORATION PARTNER TETSUO HASEGAWA WAS CHOSEN FOR SERIALIZATION

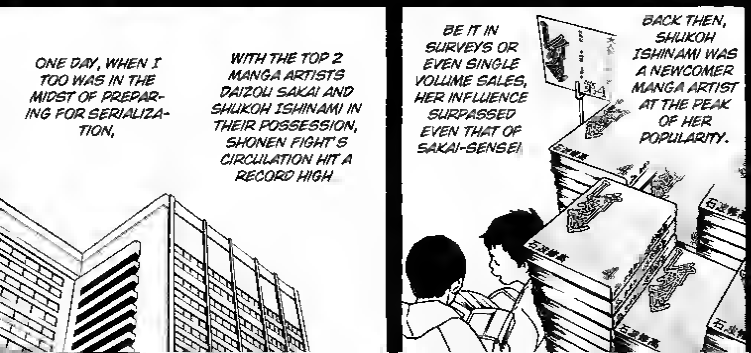
HE TOLD ME TO MAKE IT INTO A ONE-SHOT
DESPITE HAVING FORFEITED THE CHIEF EDITOR SOMEHOW GOT A HOLD OF A DRAFT THAT I DREW FOR A FRIEND...

AND THEN HE TOLD ME TO THANK SHUKOH ISHINAMI
. PLEASE TELL ME, MIYAKO -SENSEI



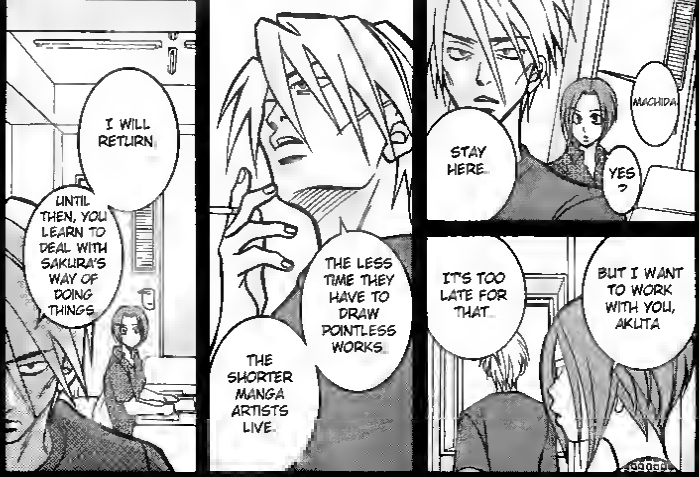
THE FIRST TIME I MET HER WAS 3 YEARS AGO.
I LOVE
YOUR MANGA, MIYAKO-SAN
IT WAS BY FATE THAT AKITA APPROACHED ME TO WORK AS A MANGA ARTIST,
AND WE WERE HAVING A MEAL WITH SAKAI-SENSEI AND THE REST OF THE STAFF.
8
OH, IF ONLY.....
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT?
ACTUALLY, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SO TOO ..
SHE'S THE FIANCEE OF FUJITANI HERE.
Oh I'm sorry!
...THE MANGA ARTIST
ARE YOU SAKAI-SENSEI'S WIFE?
TH-THANK YOU

I WONDER ABOUT THAT.
SENSEI, THAT'S...
AH, I'M SORRY
FROM THEN ON, THE TWO OF US STARTED TO GO OUT A LOT
WOW, THAT'S GREAT!
IT SEEMS FUJITANI IS SET TO GET SERIALIZED SOON
MMM...
SO HE'S A MANGA ARTIST?
I SEE.....
LOVE IT.
YEP.
YOU LIKE SHUKOH ISHINAMI'S WORK?
ISHINAMI -SENSEI'S NEW SERIES IS OUT.


ONE DAY, WHEN I TOO WAS IN THE MIDST OF PREPARING FOR SERIALIZATION,
WITH THE TOP 2 MANGA ARTISTS DAIZOU SAKAI AND SHUKOH ISHINAMI IN THEIR POSSESSION, SHONEN FIGHT'S CIRCULATION HIT A RECORD HIGH
BE IT IN SURVEYS OR EVEN SINGLE VOLUME SALES, HER INFLUENCE SURPASSED EVEN THAT OF SAKAI-SENSEI
BACK THEN, SHUKOH ISHINAMI WAS A NEWCOMER MANGA ARTIST AT THE PEAK OF HER POPULARITY.

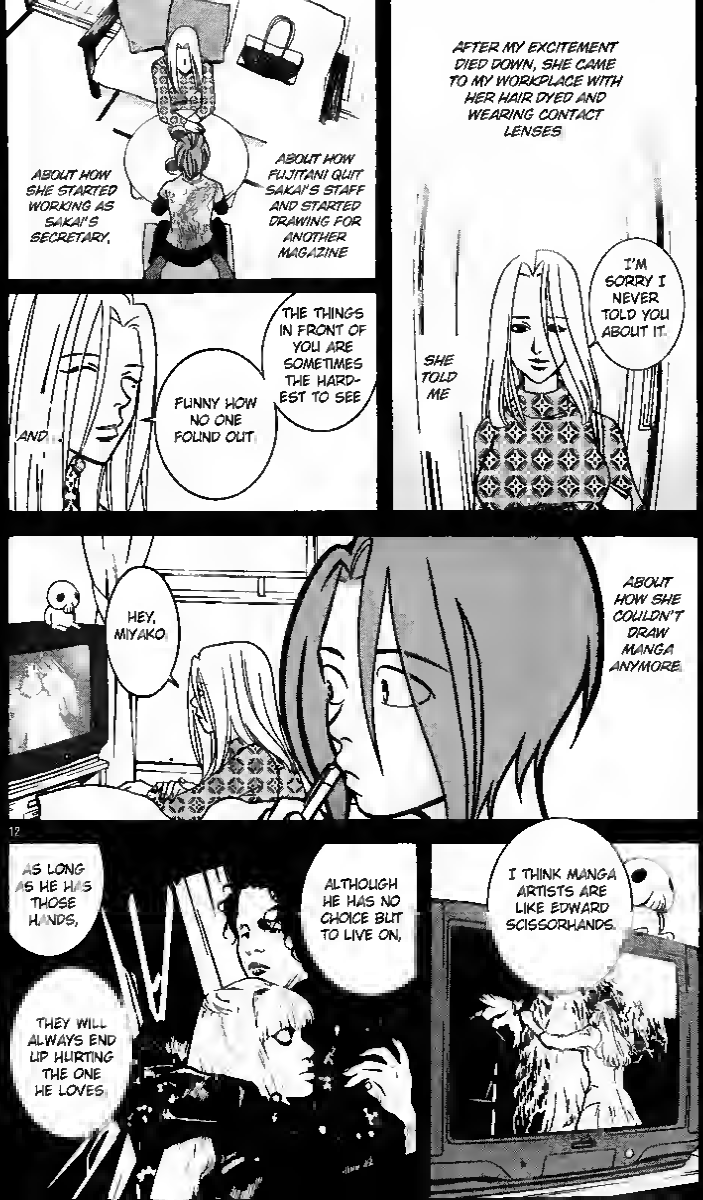
DURING THAT TIME, SAKURA, SHUKOH ISHINAMI'S MANAGER, STARTED EXERTING HIS INFLUENCE ON THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.
SORRY, MACHIDA.
AKUTA OPPOSED HIM DUE TO A DIFFERENCE OF IDEALS. IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE AKUTA WAS MARGINALIZED BY SAKURA'S SUPPORTERS.
YOU'RE NOT GETTING SERIALIZED
I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO A FOREIGN PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT.
THE PLANS FOR SERIALIZATION OF AKUTA'S AUTHORS WERE CANCELED WITH HIM.
—FUJITANI WAS ONE OF THESE AUTHORS.
AND FINALLY, SAKURA WAS PROMOTED TO CHIEF EDITOR WHILE AKUTA WAS TRANSFERRED TO A FOREIGN BRANCH OFFICE.

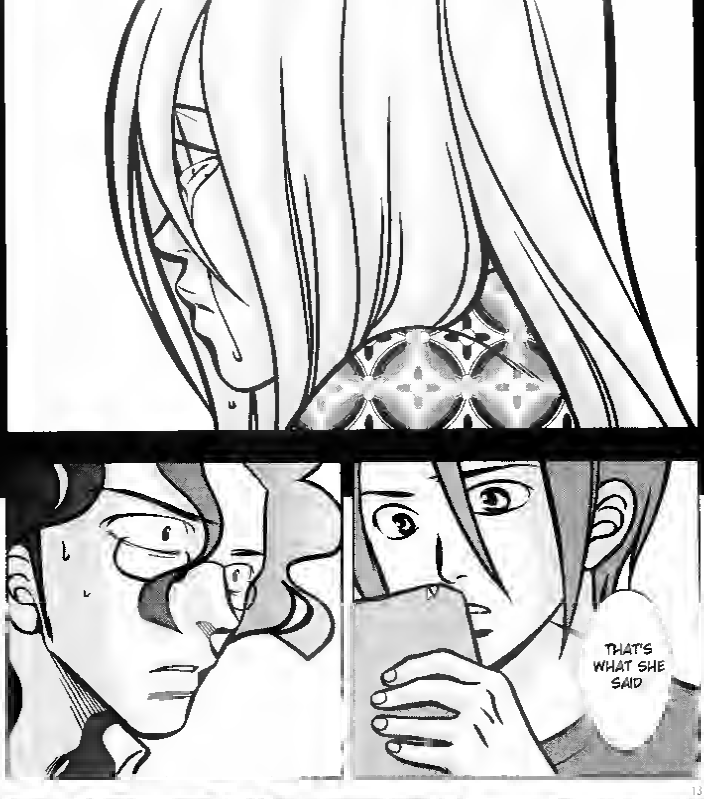
IT WAS CANCELLED EVEN BEFORE THEY HAD A CHANCE TO PUBLISH THE MASTERPIECE THEY HAD BOTH BEEN PASSIONATELY REFINING.
I THINK WHAT DISAPPOINTED AKUTA MOST WAS THE CANCELLATION OF SAKAI-SENSEI'S SERIALIZATION.


I WILL RETURN.
UNTIL THEN, YOU LEARN TO DEAL WITH SAKURA'S WAY OF DOING THINGS.
THE LESS TIME THEY HAVE TO DRAW POINTLESS WORKS,
THE SHORTER MANGA ARTISTS LIVE.
STAY HERE.
MACHIDA
YES ?
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT.
BUT I WANT TO WORK WITH YOU, AKUTA

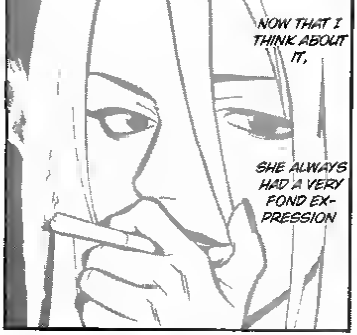
SHUKOH ISHINAMI WENT MISSING.
SOON AFTER, THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT WAS THROWN INTO PANIC.

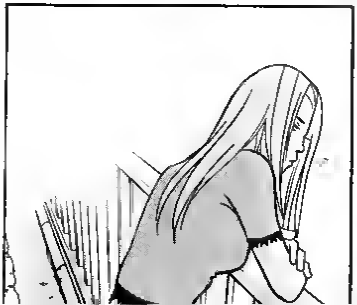
AT THAT MOMENT, I FINALLY REALISED THAT HER TRUE IDENTITY WAS SHUKOH ISHINAMI.
"BUT SHUKOH ISHINAMI SAID HER ONLY FRIEND WAS MIYAKO MACHIDA."
WHEN I EXPLAINED THAT I'D NEVER MET ISHINAMI-SENSEI, HE SAID,
SAKURA CAME LOOKING FOR ME AT MY WORK-PLACE.


ABOUT HOW SHE STARTED WORKING AS SAKAI'S SECRETARY.
ABOUT HOW FUJITANI QUIT SAKAI'S STAFF AND STARTED DRAWING FOR ANOTHER MAGAZINE
AFTER MY EXCITEMENT DIED DOWN, SHE CAME TO MY WORKPLACE WITH HER HAIR DYED AND WEARING CONTACT LENSES.
I'M SORRY I NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT IT.
SHE TOLD ME
THE THINGS IN FRONT OF YOU ARE SOMETIMES THE HARDEST TO SEE
FUNNY HOW NO ONE FOUND OUT.
AND...
ABOUT HOW SHE COULDN'T DRAW MANGA ANYMORE.
HEY, MIYAKO.
12
I THINK MANGA ARTISTS ARE LIKE EDWARD SCISSORHANDS.
ALTHOUGH HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO LIVE ON,
AS LONG AS HE HAS THOSE HANDS,
THEY WILL ALWAYS END UP HURTING THE ONE HE LOVES.

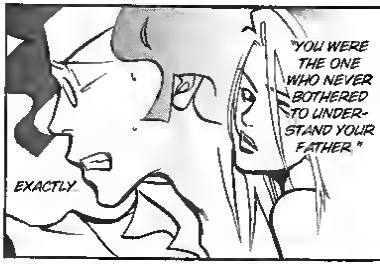

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID

WHY DO I
AH, SAKAIDA.
I HAVE TO GO!


NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
SHE ALWAYS HAD A VERY POND EX-PRESSION

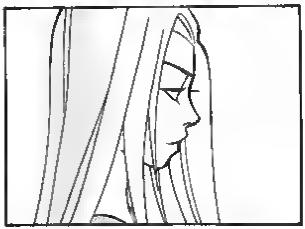


ALWAYS GET SO CAUGHT UP THINKING THE ANSWER LIES FAR AWAY,
AND FORGET TO ASK THE PEOPLE CLOSEST TO ME?


"YOU WERE THE ONE WHO NEVER BOTHERED TO UNDER-STAND YOUR FATHER."
EXACTLY

NOBODY WANTED TO TELL ME THE TRUTH...
"STOP BEING DAD'S LOVER"
"NO."
"THERE IS NO NEED FOR A PROFESSIONAL EDITOR LIKE YOU TO TEACH HIM ANYTHING."
BECAUSE I WAS ALWAYS LOOKING AT THE SURFACE.

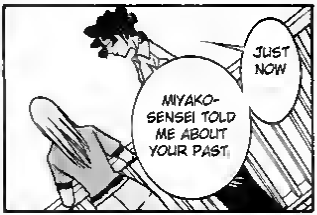
...WHY?

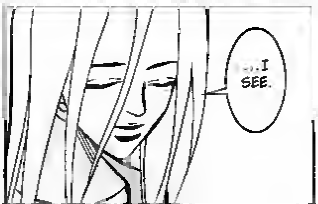


THAT DRAFT...
YOU COPIED IT AND SENT IT TO THE CHIEF EDITOR...
DIDN'T YOU, YUMIKO?

FOR FUN.

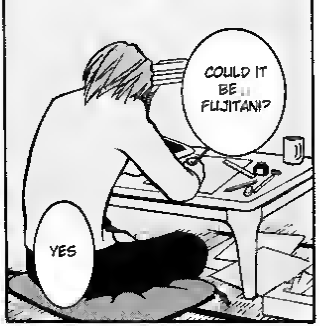
WHY DID YOU GIVE UP MANGA?
YUMIKO,
BUT I JUST HAVE TO ASK YOU THIS FACE TO FACE.


JUST NOW
MIYAKO-SENSEI TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR PAST.

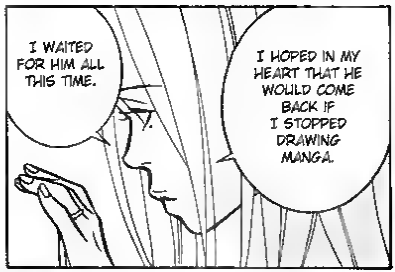

...I SEE.

THE PERSON I LOVED THE MOST
TOLD ME: "YOUR MANGA IS SCARY."
16
THIS IS A RING I RECEIVED FROM THAT PERSON
. THAT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS WEAK
HE HELD ON TO HIS WORTHLESS PRIDE

I WANTED TO LIVE WITH HIM.
SO AT FIRST I DREW JUST BECAUSE OF THAT.

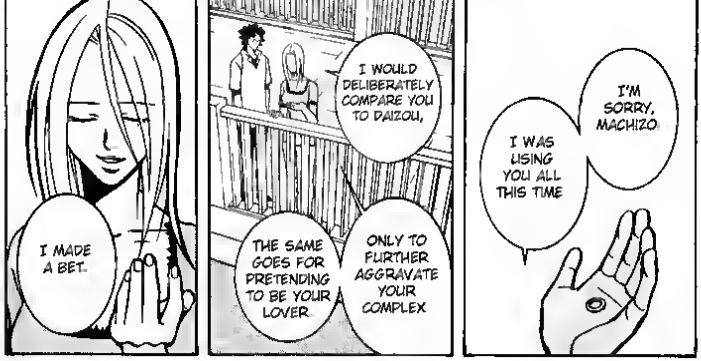

COULD IT BE... FUJITANI?
YES

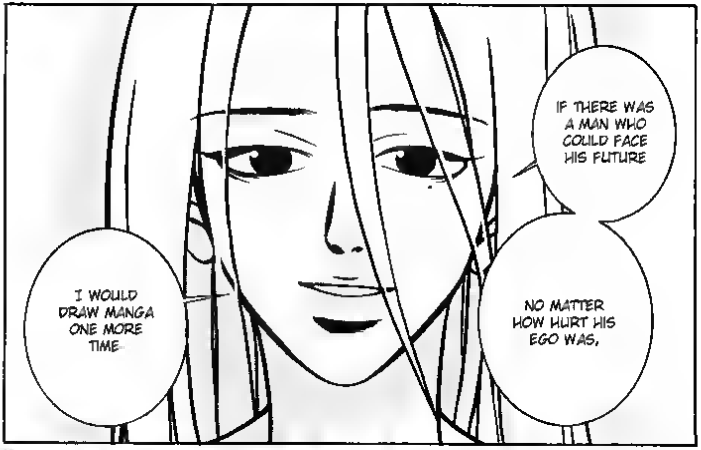
THAT'S WHY HE COULDN'T PUT UP WITH THE CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY SAKURA
HE REALLY ADORED DAIZOU AND AKUTA.


I WAITED FOR HIM ALL THIS TIME.
I HOPED IN MY HEART THAT HE WOULD COME BACK IF I STOPPED DRAWING MANGA.

THAT'S WHY HE TOLD ME...
THAT MY MANGA WAS SCARY TO HAVE CAUSED SUCH GREED IN PEOPLE.

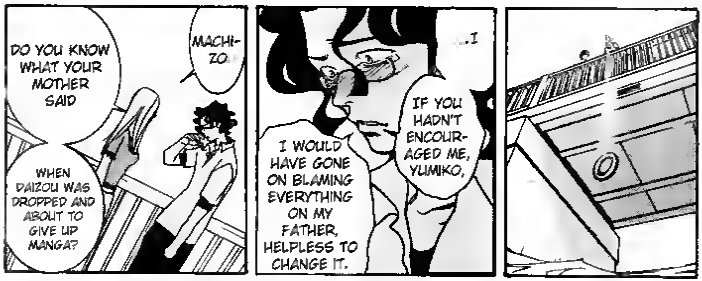
BUT ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.


I MADE A BET.
I WOULD DELIBERATELY COMPARE YOU TO DAIZOU,
THE SAME GOES FOR PRETENDING TO BE YOUR LOVER
ONLY TO FURTHER AGGRAVATE YOUR COMPLEX
I WAS USING YOU ALL THIS TIME
I'M SORRY, MACHIZO.


I WOULD DRAW MANGA ONE MORE TIME
NO MATTER HOW HURT HIS EGO WAS,
IF THERE WAS A MAN WHO COULD FACE HIS FUTURE

THAT'S ALL A MANGA ARTIST NEEDS
AND YOU WERE NO LONGER EMBARRASSED OR AFRAID TO TALK ABOUT YOUR DREAM
YOU STOPPED RUNNING AWAY FROM REALITY

I WAS EXTREMELY OVERJOYED TO SEE YOU CHANGING, MACHIZO.
YOU SHOWED ME SOMETHING GREAT.
THANK YOU.

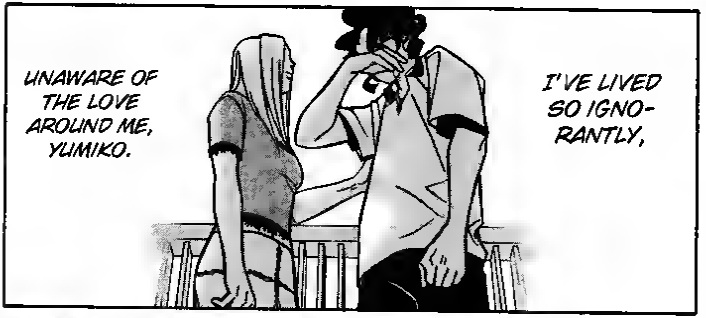

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR MOTHER SAID
MACHIZO.
WHEN DAIZOU WAS DROPPED AND ABOUT TO GIVE UP MANGA?
...I
IF YOU HADN'T ENCOURAGED ME, YUMIKO,
I WOULD HAVE GONE ON BLAMING EVERYTHING ON MY FATHER, HELPLESS TO CHANGE IT.

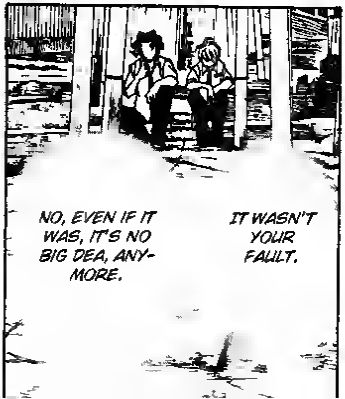
"IF YOU DON'T DRAW MANGA, WHO WILL?"
—SHE TOLD HIM.
"IF YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING A SERVICE TO THE FAMILY BY GIVING UP MANGA, I'M LEAVING."

HE SAID THAT YOU LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM,
CRYING BECAUSE NO ONE UNDERSTOOD YOU
SOON AFTER, DAIZOU-SAN MET TETSUO.
INDEED, HE DID WRITE MANGA FOR HIS SAKE,
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL
THERE'S NO WAY A MANGA THAT FAILS TO TOUCH THE ONE HE LOVES THE MOST
COULD POSSIBLY SWAY A CHILD HE'S NEVER MET BEFORE
DAIZOU HAS ALWAYS BEEN TRYING TO REACH OUT TO YOU THROUGH HIS MANGA.

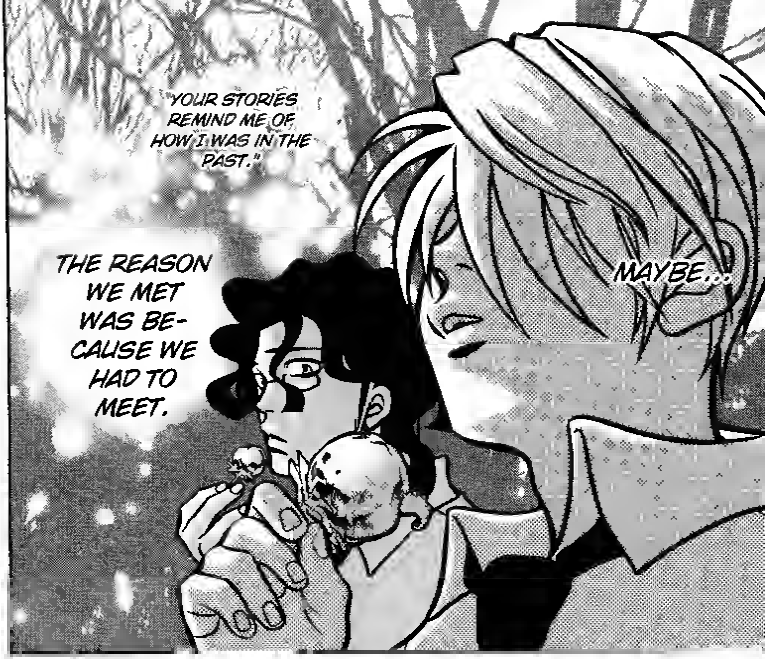
"YOU KNOW, THE MAIN CHARACTER"
ISN'T THAT SO?

"REMINDS ME OF YOU, SAKAIDA."
ALL THESE YEARS...


UNAWARE OF THE LOVE AROUND ME, YUMIKO.
I'VE LIVED SO IGNO-RANTLY,


NO, EVEN IF IT WAS, IT'S NO BIG DEA, ANY-MORE.
IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.

TETSUO,
I'M SORRY,

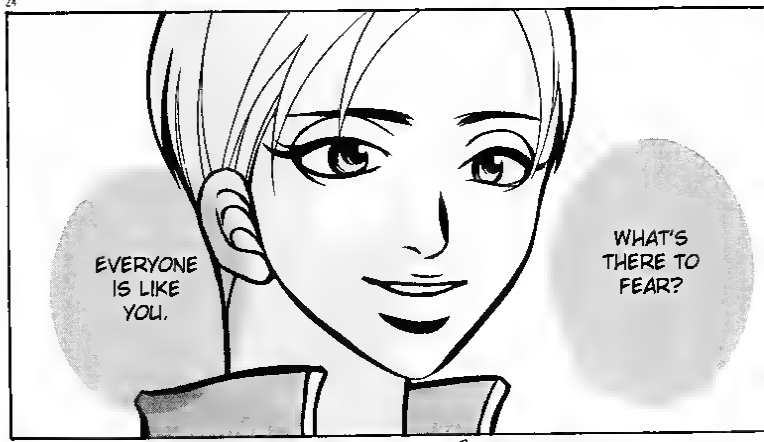

"YOUR STORIES REMIND ME OF HOW I WAS IN THE PAST."
THE REASON WE MET WAS BE-CAUSE WE HAD TO MEET.
MAYBE...

Ameya High Cultural Festival
YEP, I HEARD IT'S SUPER GOOD OR SOMETHING?
I WANNA WATCH IT
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE PLAY BY CLASS 2B?

YO, MANGA ARTIST
'SUP
SHUT UP
YOU'RE PRETTY BUSY WITH WORK NOW, HUH?
YOU BET. THANK GOD FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL
OUR PLAY SOUNDS PRETTY GOOD FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD
OH, THAT'S BECAUSE WE HAD FUN WITH IT AND PRACTICED A TON
IN THIS CASE, WE TOTALLY IGNORED THE ORIGINAL WORK
I SEE. IN WHAT WAY?
IT'S A STORY ABOUT ROMEO STRUGGLING TO INVITE JULIET, A SHUT-IN LIVING IN OSAKA, ON A DATE
AH, BUT KUMIKO'S REALLY FLEXIBLE ISN'T SHE?
SHE'S COMPLETELY GOT THE RIGHT AURA
YOU SERIOUS?
LET ME SEE.

YOU AIN'T NO SHUT-IN, JULIET
'AIGHT. IF YA SAY SO. Y'KNOW,
YOU'S PROLLY MORE O' AN INDOOR ACTIVITIES PERSON'S ALL.
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
AIN'T NOBODY UNDERSTANDS ME AT ALL!
OH. YOU'S MISTAKEN, DEARIE

WHAT YA THINK IS WHAT EVERYONE THINKS.
THIS WORLD REALLY HAS NO BOUNDARIES
REALLY?
'S TRUE, 'S TRUE
YOU'S JUST SURROUND BY SOME ROCK, Y'KNOW?
'S JUST SOME ROCK, 'AIGHT?
THOUGH AT A GLANCE THIS MAY LOOK LIKE A WALL,
DO YA KNOW, JULIET?
YER A STRANGER AND A STRANGER ARE YOU.
IF YA THINK ABOUT IT THIS WAY, THE OUTSIDE IS YER ROOM AND YER ROOM IS THE OUTSIDE


EVERYONE IS LIKE YOU.
WHAT'S THERE TO FEAR?

SO IT ALL BOILS DOWN TA THAT, EH!
C'MON, GO OUT WITH ME A LI'L MORE.
SO YA SHOULD GO TA THAT CASTLE WITH THOSE PRETTY NEON LIGHTS, SEE?

ワアッ!

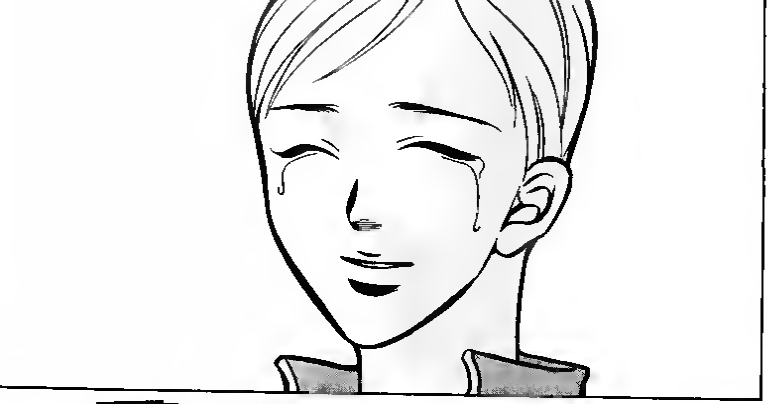
SAK-AIDA!
I HEARD YOU'RE SET TO PUBLISH A ONESHOT?
YEP.
GOOD WORK.
YOU DID GREAT.
THAT'S GREAT.
YOU KNOW,
NOW I KNOW WHY MY EYES ALWAYS WAN-DERED TO YOU.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE A WORK OF ART IN YOURSELF.

Let's start the lighting
Pimps helpers, please fix that as well
Got it!

KUMIKO?

YOU GOT ME THERE.



HEY, HAVE YOU READ THIS WEEK'S SHOUNEN FIGHT?
TETCHAN'S AWESOME.
GOOD FOR HIM, HIS MOM JUST PASSED AWAY, AT LEAST SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENED.
HE'S PROBABLY GOING TO BE SKIPPING SCHOOL FROM NOW ON, HUH...
YEAH...
STAFF ROOM
TETCHAN'S SERIALIZATION HAS FINALLY STARTED...
It's only 9 pages...
YEP.
I HEAR THIS IS TETCHAN'S MANGA.
LEMME SEE!

GET BACK TO YOUR CLASS ALREADY
OKAY
MM, WELL, I WILL LATER
HAVE YOU READ IT, MITCHAN -SENSEI?

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

HAVE YOU READ THE NEW SERIES?
MHMM IT'S GOOD

THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST CHAPTER, WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE REST YET
AMAZING
HE'S WAY BETTER
NO MATTER HOW I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE'S NO WAY WE WOULD HAVE WON
MORE IMPORTANTLY ARE YOU GUYS MAKING ANY PROGRESS ON YOUR OWN DRAFTS?
WHY ARE YOU MAKING YOURSELF SO AT HOME AT MY PLACE?

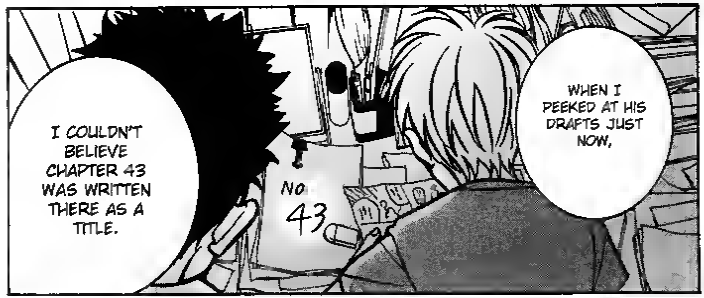
ENQUIRIES ARE POURING IN FROM READERS!
BOSS, THE REACTION TO THE NEW SERIES IS AMAZING.
RRRRR
RRRR

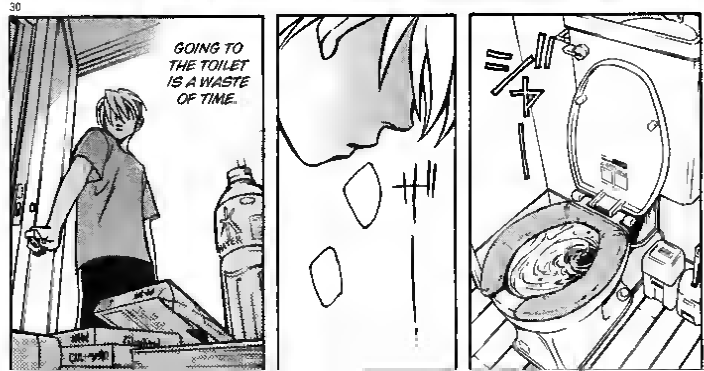
IT'S ALMOST LIKE IT CASTS A SPELL ON YOU

THIS NEWCOMER'S AMAZING.
OH, I'VE READ IT TOO.
WONDER HOW THE NEXT FEW CHAPTERS WILL GO.
……
ガヤ
ガヤ

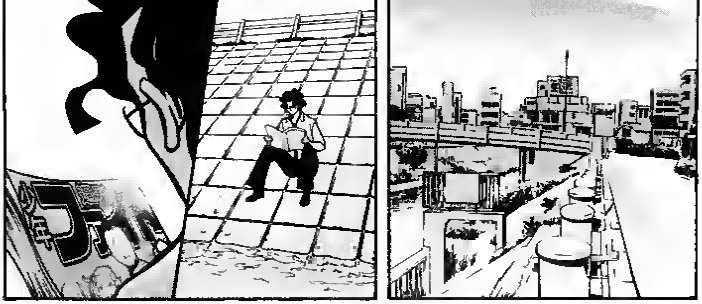
HASEGAWA, I'M FINISHED FOR THE DAY.
UM... HASEGAWA?
301
Hasegawa
SHALL I GET SOME TAKE-OUT FOR YOU?
SHOULDN'T YOU GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK?

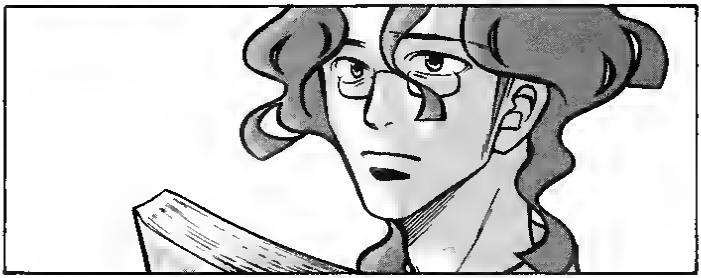
THANKS FOR YOUR WORK TODAY.
WELL.. WE'LL BE OFF.....
PLEASE EXCUSE US.
.....THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HELPED OUT ON A MANGA WITH OVER 10 CHAPTERS
ME TOO.
DON'T YOU THINK HE'S KIND OF RUSHING?
WELL, ABOUT THAT.....

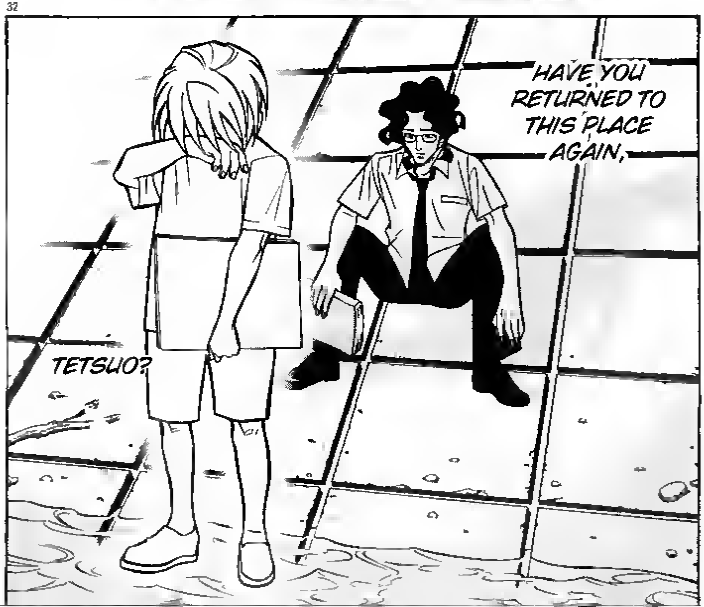

WHEN I PEEKED AT HIS DRAFTS JUST NOW,
NO. 43
I COULDN'T BELIEVE CHAPTER 43 WAS WRITTEN THERE AS A TITLE.


GOING TO THE TOILET IS A WASTE OF TIME.

I THINK ABOUT IDEAS FOR MANGA EVEN IN MY DREAMS.
TREMBLING HANDS ARE INCONVENIENT.
EATING IS A CHORE
HEY, SAKAIDA.
FUFU ...
FU
FU..
IT WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER IF I HAD A MECHANICAL BODY.
IF THIS IS HOW THINGS ARE, I FEEL LIKE CAN DRAW ANYTHING.
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I COULD COME TO HATE MANGA THIS MUCH.






HAVE YOU RETURNED TO THIS PLACE AGAIN,
TETSUO?

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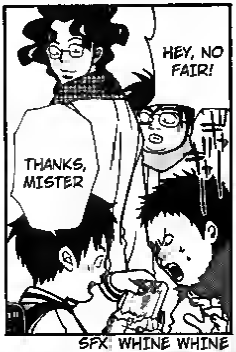
I READ YOUR FIRST VOLUME OF MANGA, TETSUO-KUN.
ALL THE BOOKSTORES HAVE STOCKED THEM LIKE CRAZY.
AS EX-PECTED
Act. 15 : NO USE
I'M GLAD THAT SOMEONE GOOD ENOUGH TO RIVAL ME HAS FINALLY APPEARED
FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, I'VE BEEN THE ONLY NEWCOMER TO SHOUNEN FIGHT WHO'S THRIVED, YOU SEE.

YOU'RE SURE TO SUCCEED WITH THE SAME MANAGER AS MINE, SAKAIDE-SAN, IN CHARGE.
HE IS VERY COM-PETENT, YOU SEE.
YOU'RE LUCKY.
EGYPT
45
SAKAIDE-SAN AND I WILL BE VISITING YOU ON FRIDAY.
WE'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT.
SEE YOU.
SFX: BOOP ... BOOP ... BOOP ...

Air, 15 : NO USE

WHOA
TETCHAN'S FIRST VOLUME IS OUT!
I GOTTA BUY THIS!
MAN, BUT WHEN YOU'RE SERIALIZED IN A WEEKLY MAGAZINE, YOU GET YOUR FIRST VOLUME PRINTED IN NO TIME, EH...
I'M AMAZED BY THE SHEER NUMBER THEY STOCKED
AH!
松屋書店
THE FIRST VOLUME OF "SAKURA NO MICHI" IS OUT!
LET'S BUY IT!
CAN YOU LEND IT TO ME AFTER YOU'VE READ IT?
NO WAY, YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT
JUST GET YOUR OWN,
I...
I'M SORRY...
SFX PUSH



4

SFX: WHINE WHINE

FUJI TV WILL BE COLLECTING INFORMATION FOR THEIR MORNING SCOOP ON THE 30TH
HERE ARE THE FAN LETTERS FOR THIS WEEK
YOU'LL BE INTERVIEWED BY THE MAGAZINE DA VINCI ON THE 28TH
I'VE ALREADY SETTLED THE ADDITIONAL PRINTS OF YOUR FIRST VOLUME

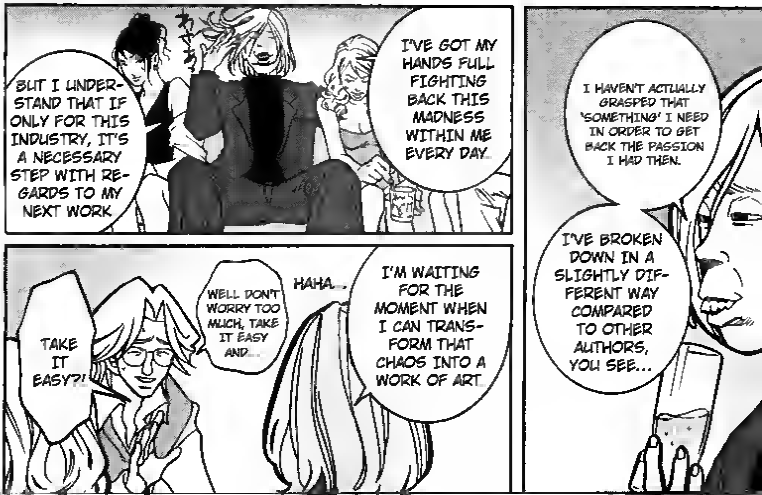
SFX FLOMP

AND FINISHED 5 VOLUMES WORTH OF DRAFTS, AFTER ALL
YOU'VE DRAWN OVER 10 CHAPTERS,
YOU REALLY ARE AN EXCELLENT NEWCOMER
AH, IOKA-SENSEI IS HERE
LET'S ENTERTAIN HIM FOR TODAY.
SFX PING PO
REALLY?
I'LL COLLECT THEM SOMETIME NEXT WEEK, THEN.
THERE ARE STILL SOME AREAS WHICH I WANT TO CORRECT.
OH,
IS IT OKAY IF I COLLECT WHAT YOU'VE DRAWN TODAY?
...NO,

BEING SERIALIZED IN A WEEKLY MAGAZINE MUST BE TOUGH.
YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE A BREAK ONCE IN A WHILE
BUT HE'S PROGRESSING AT AN UNTHINKABLE SPEED FOR A NEWCOMER
LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR WORK, IOKA-SENSEI
RIGHT NOW, I'M ADDICTED TO THAT VERY MAGIC.
BUT FOR MY SECOND PIECE OF WORK THINGS DIDN'T QUITE WORK OUT THAT WAY.
I WAS LIKE THAT IN THE PAST. MY FIRST SERIALIZATION WAS FULL OF VIGOR AND I COULD TAKE IT ANYWHERE.

6

SFX PWISH


わぁ
BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT IF ONLY FOR THIS INDUSTRY, IT'S A NECESSARY STEP WITH REGARDS TO MY NEXT WORK.
I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL FIGHTING BACK THIS MADNESS WITHIN ME EVERY DAY.
I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY GRASPED THAT 'SOMETHING' I NEED IN ORDER TO GET BACK THE PASSION I HAD THEN.
I'VE BROKEN DOWN IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT WAY COMPARED TO OTHER AUTHORS, YOU SEE...
TAKE IT EASY?!
WELL DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH, TAKE IT EASY AND...
HAHA...
I'M WAITING FOR THE MOMENT WHEN I CAN TRANSFORM THAT CHAOS INTO A WORK OF ART.

AHAHAHAHA
I'M SORRY ...
IT SEEMS YOU HAVE YET TO FULLY UNDERSTAND ME
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT I, KISHICHI IOKA, CAN TAKE IT EASY?
NO CAN DO MANAGERS AND AUTHORS ARE PARTNERS IN CRIME, AFTER ALL ♡
A WORTH-LESS ONE
.....
YOU'RE A MANGA ARTIST, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT KIND OF MANGA ARE YOU DRAWING?
YOU'RE SO QUIET, MISTER

SFX. THUMP

GREAT!
IT'S GOOD.
YOU SERI-OUS?
YEP.
IT'S EVEN BETTER NOW THAT IT'S DRAWN

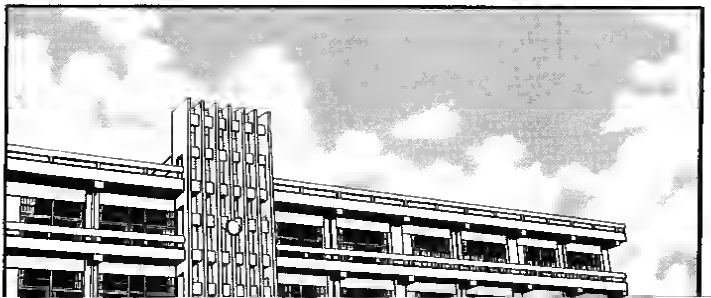
THANK YOU
BOY, BUT I REALLY DIDN'T THINK A 32-PAGE ONESHOT WOULD TAKE THREE MONTHS TO COMPLETE
IT'S OKAY, YOU'LL GET USED TO IT SOON
WOW... I'M SORRY, I DON'T THINK I DID A VERY GOOD JOB...
NOPE,
THERE WERE SOME PARTS THAT CAN ONLY BE DRAWN BY YOU,
YOUR MESSAGE WILL SURELY BE CONVEYED TO THE READERS.
REALLY?!
SAKAI-SENSEI AND ISHINAMI-SENSEI'S NEW SERIALIZATIONS ARE STARTING SOON.
SFX. PFFT!
NOW WITH THINGS LIKE THIS, I PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO DRINK YUMIKO-SAN'S TEA..
OH...
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS, YAMADA-SAN?!
SO YOU REALLY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT, YAMADA-SAN?
MAN, BUT I SURE WAS SURPRISED THAT YUMIKO-SAN WAS SHUKOH ISHINAMI.
I ONLY BECAME AN EDITOR AFTER ISHINAMI-SENSEI HAD QUIT, YOU SEE.
SFX COUGH COUGH
LOOKS LIKE IT.
HOW'S HE BEEN LATELY?
OH YES, ORDERS FOR TETSUO-KUN'S NEW VOLUME ARE FLOODING IN...

SFX: CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER
SIGN: HASEGAWA STORE
I HEAR HE'S DRAWN QUITE A LOT...
SEEMS HE'S GOT A CONSIDERABLE ALLOWANCE FOR PLOT PROGRESSION.
TO AN OUTSIDE OBSERVER, THINGS ARE GOING ALMOST A LITTLE TOO WELL.
SFX: CHATTER CHATTER
DOING WELL AREN'T YOU, GRAMPS?
HEY THERE, MACHIZO-KUN.
THIS WEEK'S FIGHT COMES WITH A FREE STRAP FOR TETSU'S MANGA
YOU CAME FIRST IN THE POLLS AGAIN THIS TIME.
OH, THERE'S SOME TALK ABOUT MAKING AN ANIME ADAPTATION.
BUT PERSONALLY I'M ALSO THINKING OF A VIDEO GAME TIE-IN
SERIOUSLY?! WHOA...
IT'S REALLY WELL DONE, TOO.
TETCHAN'S MADE IT BIG, EH?
SOUNDED LIKE THEY'RE ACTUALLY GONNA DO IT
THERE ARE RUMORS THAT THEY'RE GOING TO ADAPT IT INTO A MOVIE.
IN ANY CASE, LET'S PAY FOR THESE
SAKAIDE'S DOING PRETTY WELL LATELY,
HE'S MORE FLEXIBLE THAN IOKA, SO HE'S PROBABLY EASIER TO DEAL WITH

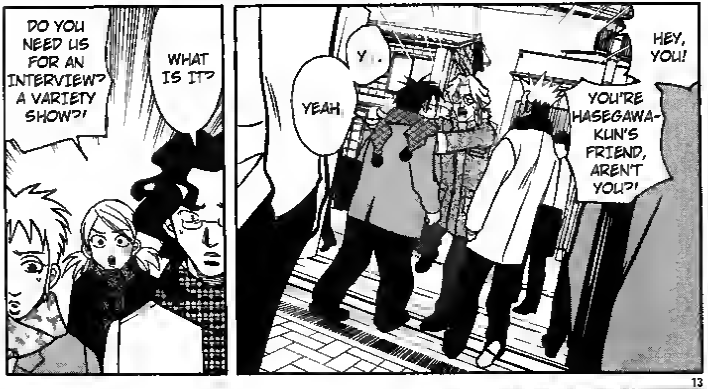
YOU'LL BE INTERVIEWED BY MHK FROM 3PM TODAY.
AFTER THAT IS AN APPOINTMENT WITH GAIYOUDO
SFX CLICK CLICK CLACK
AH, CHIEF EDITOR.
HASEGAWA-SENSEI WAS FIRST THIS WEEK AGAIN.
AND THERE'S HIGH CHANCE OF A MOVIE ADAPTATION
YOU SHOULD HAVE A MEAL WITH HIM ONCE IN A
SFX PASS
...WHAT A WEIRD GUY.

SFX CLICK CLICK
WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH ALL THAT LUGGAGE?
I MADE A SPECIAL TRIP HERE TO GIVE YOU A COPY OF MY MANGA AND SOME WINE
AH, GOING TO DO SOME RESEARCH?
TETSUO-KUN?
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT... I GET THE FEELING THAT YOU AND I ARE CONNECTED IN SOME WAY AFTER ALL.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT THE CURE TO THIS ARTIST'S BLOCK,
MIGHT JUST BE LYING SOMEPLACE UNUSUAL
IF SO, WOULD YOU MIND IF I ACCOMPANY YOU?

SFX: CHILL



NAH,
I KINDA FEEL BAD BOTHERING HIM. .
I SEE ...
BEATS ME
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
HAVE YOU BEEN KEEPING IN CONTACT WITH TETSUO?

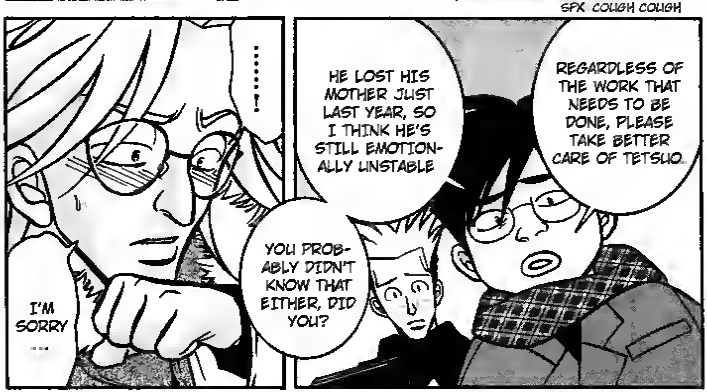

DO YOU NEED US FOR AN INTERVIEW? A VARIETY SHOW?!
WHAT IS IT?
Y..
YEAH.
HEY, YOU!
YOU'RE HASEGAWA-KUN'S FRIEND, AREN'T YOU?!

ARE YOU SERI-OUS?!
WELL, ACTUALLY... HASEGAWA-KUN HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE YESTERDAY...

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO TETSUO?
NO... I DIDN'T SEE HIM, BUT...
DID YOU SEE HASEGAWA-KUN YES-TERDAY?

SFX: GRAB
AH...
YOU'RE SAKAI-SENSEI'S SO...
I MEAN...
WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE HE MIGHT...
YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU COULDN'T TELL THAT TETSUO WAS ACTING STRANGELY?
STOP SCREWING AROUND, YOU!...
SAKAIDA!
SAKAIDA, STOP IT.
SHOUNEN FIGHT ISN'T FORCING HIM TO DO ANY-THING AGAINST HIS WILL.
H... HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?

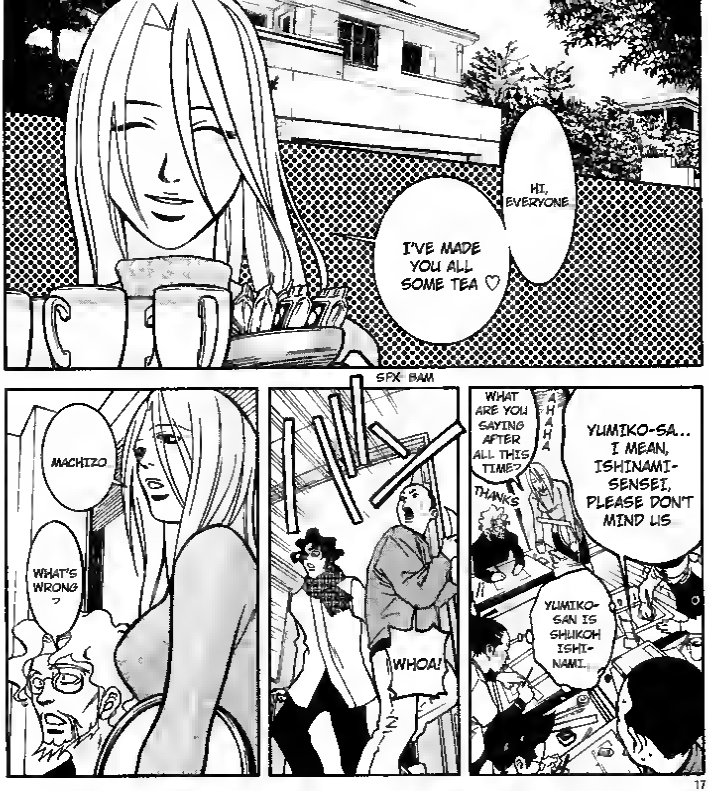
SFX: COUGH COUGH


.....!
I'M SORRY
YOU PROB-ABLY DIDN'T KNOW THAT EITHER, DID YOU?
HE LOST HIS MOTHER JUST LAST YEAR, SO I THINK HE'S STILL EMOTION-ALLY UNSTABLE
REGARDLESS OF THE WORK THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, PLEASE TAKE BETTER CARE OF TETSUO.

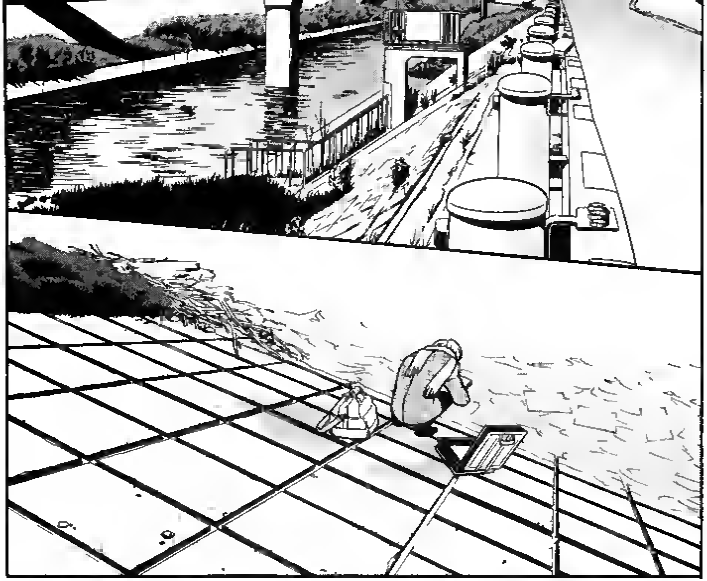
I DON'T THINK THAT'S IT.
AFTER ALL, I HEARD HE HAD LOTS OF ALLOW-ANCE FOR PLOT PROGRESSION.
I WONDER IF A WEEKLY SERIALIZATION WAS TOO DEMANDING FOR HIM?
IT SEEMS THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT'S BEEN THROWN INTO PANIC.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED SINCE HE'D BEEN SELLING SO WELL

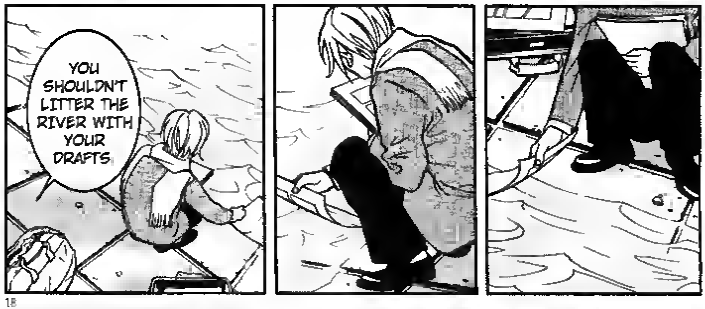
A FORM OF REVENGE AGAINST. .
HIS FATHER...?
IF TETSUO SUDDENLY DISAPPEARS NOW,
WAIT A MINUTE
WHO'S THE ONE WHO HAS TO TAKE ALL THE RESPONSIBIL-ITY?
COULD IT BE THAT... THIS WAS ALL PLANNED OUT BEFOREHAND ?
DO AS HE'S TOLD BY THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT, THEN ONE DAY... POOF

I HAVE TO LET TETSUO MEET MY OLD MAN,
DAIZOU SAKAI.
I'M GONNA GO HOME FOR A WHILE!
IF YOU FIND HIM, DON'T APPROACH HIM, JUST CALL MY NUMBER!
KUMIKO, GO CHECK THE PLACES TETSUO IS LIKELY TO HAVE GONE TO!
HOME? WHY?!


HI, EVERYONE
I'VE MADE YOU ALL SOME TEA ♡
SPX BAM
MACHIZO
WHAT'S WRONG ?
WHOA!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING AFTER ALL THIS TIME?
AHAHA
THANKS
YUMIKO-SA... I MEAN, ISHINAMI-SENSEI, PLEASE DON'T MIND US
YUMIKO-SAN IS SHUKOH ISHINAMI.

OLD MAN,
I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

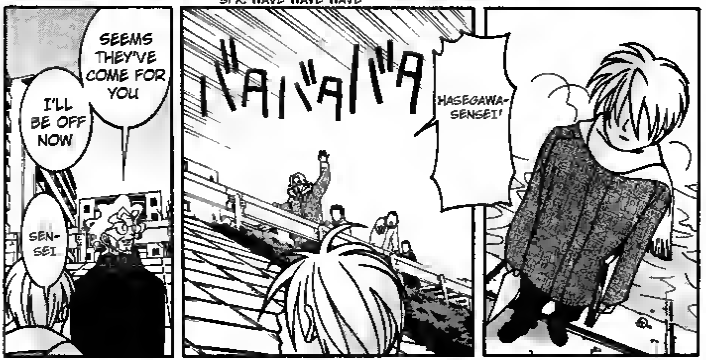



YOU SHOULDN'T LITTER THE RIVER WITH YOUR DRAFTS

FOR WHOSE SAKE ARE YOU THROWING THEM AWAY THIS TIME?

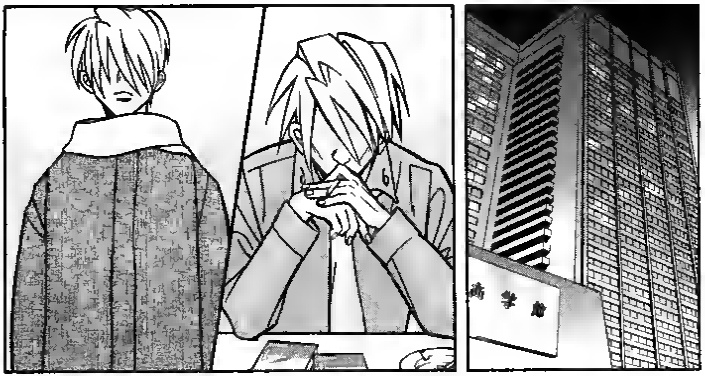
ALL THESE YEARS I'VE BEEN DRAWING MANGA,
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I FORGET THAT THERE IS SOMEONE BEYOND THOSE DRAFTS.
AND YOU ARE THE ONE WHO MADE ME REMEMBER THAT.
THAT I DRAW NOT FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S SAKE,
NOR FOR MY OWN SAKE
YOU SIMPLY MADE ME REALIZE THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE READING THIS FAR AWAY.

THANK YOU.

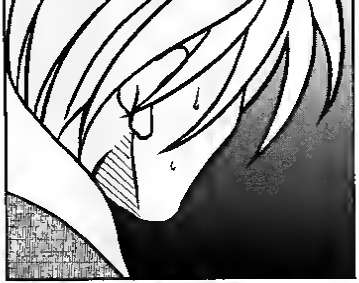

SFX. WAVE WAVE WAVE
SEEMS THEY'VE COME FOR YOU
I'LL BE OFF NOW
SEN-SEI
HASEGAWA-SENSEI!

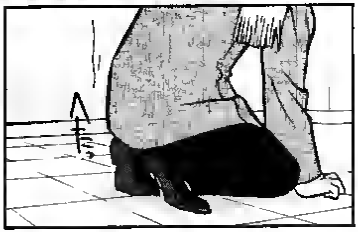
WAS THE MODEL FOR THE MAIN CHARACTER OF "ORE-TACHI NO BANKA"
MACHIZO-KUN?

SFX SPLASH SPLASH SPLASH

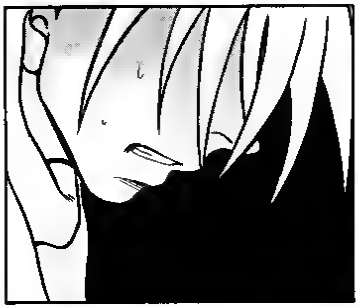


AND MACHIZO SAKAIDA WILL ALSO MAKE HIS DEBUT
DID YOU THINK THAT FIGHT'S SALES WOULD DIP IN THE SLIGHTEST IF YOU DROPPED OUT?
WELL TOO BAD.
SHUKOH ISHINAMI IS MAKING HER COMEBACK SOON.
DAIZOU SAKAI'S NEW SERIALIZATION IS STARTING.
SFX: BAM
MAKE A DECISION ON QUITTING OR CONTINUING THIS SERIES WITHIN A WEEK.
EVEN IF YOU DECIDE TO CONTINUE, YOUR 5 VOLUMES' WORTH OF DRAFTS WERE NO GOOD. REDO THEM
I'LL BE MAKING SURE YOUR WORK ISN'T PUBLISHED UNTIL I APPROVE YOUR DRAFTS.

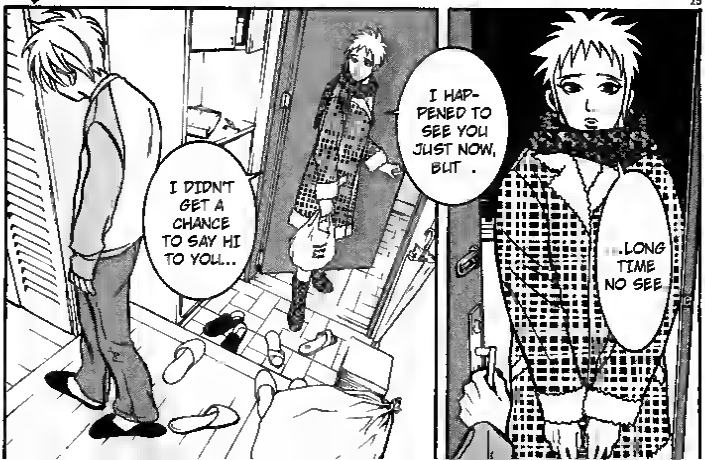




SFX: COL-LAPSE



GOING AGAINST YOUR TRUE SELF WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO YOUR DESTRUCTION
WITH THAT IN MIND, THE SPOT IN SHOUNEN FIGHT WILL GO TO TETSUO HASEGAWA.
SHIT
WAS I MERELY
SFX. DING DONG
SFX. CRUSH
SFX. SNAP
BEING TESTED AS SOME SORT OF GUINEA PIG,
TO PROVE THAT TO THE OTHER NEWCOMERS...?


I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO SAY HI TO YOU...
I HAP-PENED TO SEE YOU JUST NOW, BUT .
...LONG TIME NO SEE

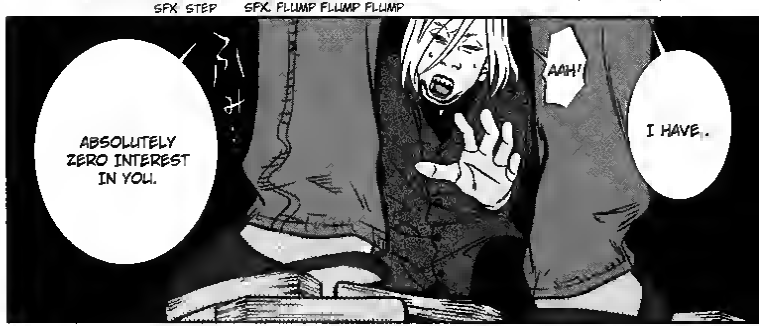
SFX: BAM!
HUH?
SO YOU'LL ACCEPT THIS COPY OF MY MANGA TODAY, YES?
WELCOME BACK TETSUO-KUN!
I...
KIND OF DON'T KNOW ANYMORE.
I...
YOU KNOW, TETSUO?
UM ...
I'M TALKING ABOUT SAKAIDA...
SFX: DING DONG
THANKS TO YOU, I THINK I'VE SETTLED THE PLOT FOR MY NEXT PIECE OF WORK.
BOY WAS I INSPIRED BY THOSE WORDS YOU LEFT ME THE OTHER DAY.
YOU NEEDN'T KEEP SUCH A THING FROM ME, YOU KNOW.
I SEE THERE'S MORE TO YOU THAN MEETS THE EYE... I WOULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED THAT YOU HAD SUCH A BEAUTIFUL GIRLFRIEND.
SFX: SQUEEZE

LOOKING FOR THAT MISSING PIECE OF OURSELVES IS FOREVER OUR CALLING, YOU SEE
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS AS A FELLOW MANGA ARTIST.
TETSUO-KUN... I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULD WANT TO ESCAPE FROM THIS PLACE.
WHY A HANDSHAKE?!
OH YES, I'M KISHICHI IOKA, A MANGA ARTIST.
I'M SORRY, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF YOU.
IT'S FINE, MY WORK IS MORE FAMOUS THAN MY NAME.

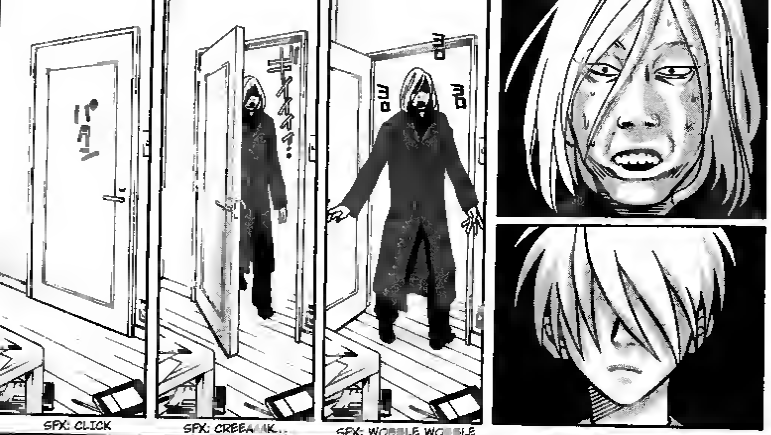
...MANGA ARTISTS,
AREN'T AS GLAMOROUS AN OCCUPATION AS YOU THINK.
AND BEFORE THAT,
TETSUO-KUN?
.....
SFX: FLUMP FLUMP FLUMP
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND..
JUST WHEN...
WE HAVE NOTHING LEFT BUT MANGA, YOU KNOW?
UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THAT DARK PART OF ME, THAT HUNGER..
ARE YOU ONE OF THEM AFTER ALL?!
YOU AND I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO CALL OURSELVES MANGA ARTISTS
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

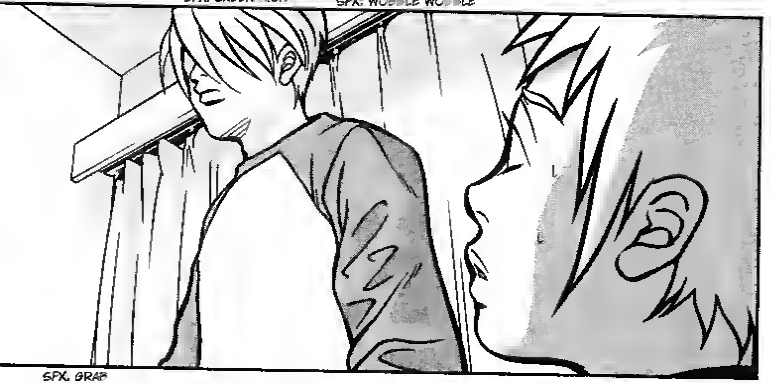
DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO?!
I WANT TO BE SAVED BY MANGA SOMEDAY!

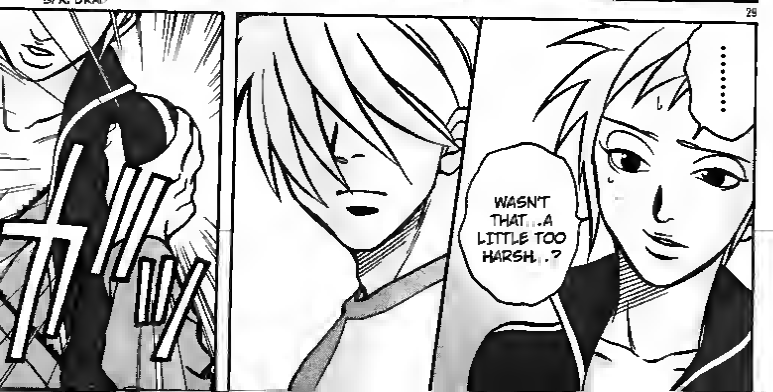
DRAWING CRAP LIKE THIS WILL NEVER LEAD TO YOUR SALVATION.
WHA
SFX: STEP
SFX: FLUMP FLUMP FLUMP


AAH!
I HAVE..
ABSOLUTELY ZERO INTEREST IN YOU.

HAVE FUN PRETENDING TO BE WRITER. ALONE.
NOW FUCK OFF!


SFX: CLICK
SFX: CREEAAAK...
SFX: WOBBLE WOBBLE


SFX: GRAP


WASN'T THAT...A LITTLE TOO HARSH...?
.....

……!!
WAI...
LISTEN TO ME,
MMF...
TETSU,
SFX: THUD
AH!...
STO...!

TRANSLATION: DEMIOTAKU
TYPESETTING: CRAZYANKAN
CLEANING: ANPWN, HINOKAI & CRAZYANKAN
PROOFREADING: KATYDID, YSQUARED
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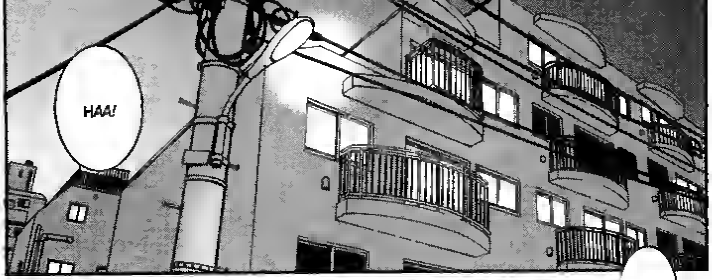
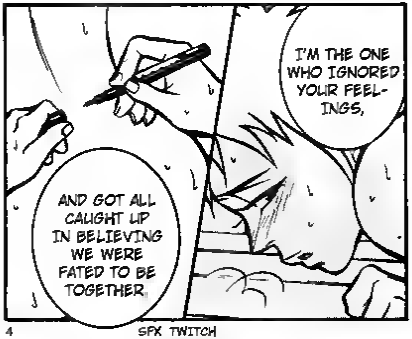


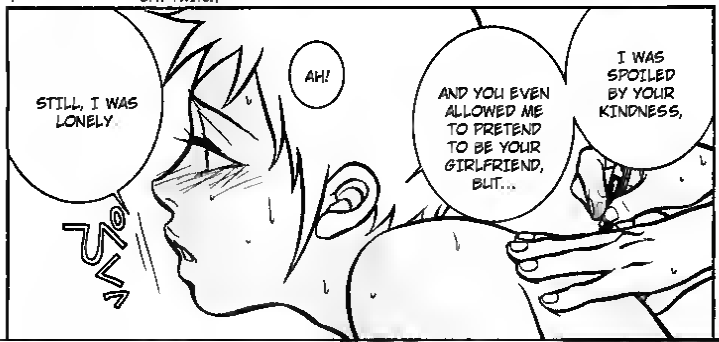
2

YOU KNOW,
...
3
MY PARENTS' SITUATION TAUGHT ME FROM A YOUNG AGE,
THAT A PRINCE RIDING A WHITE HORSE WOULD NEVER COME FOR ME.
I WASN'T GIRLY AT ALL TO START WITH,
SO I DIDN'T BELIEVE I COULD BECOME A PRINCESS
SO I THOUGHT I'D BECOME A PRINCE INSTEAD.
BUT IT WOULD'VE BEEN LONELY THAT WAY.

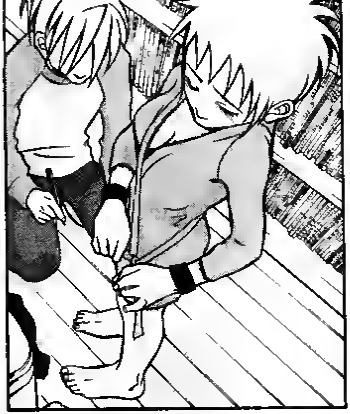
THE REASON I PROTECTED YOU, TETSUO,
WAS REALLY BECAUSE I WANTED TO PROTECT MYSELF.

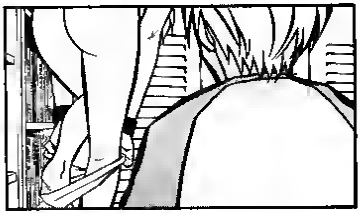

I'M THE ONE WHO IGNORED YOUR FEELINGS,
AND GOT ALL CAUGHT UP IN BELIEVING WE WERE FATED TO BE TOGETHER.

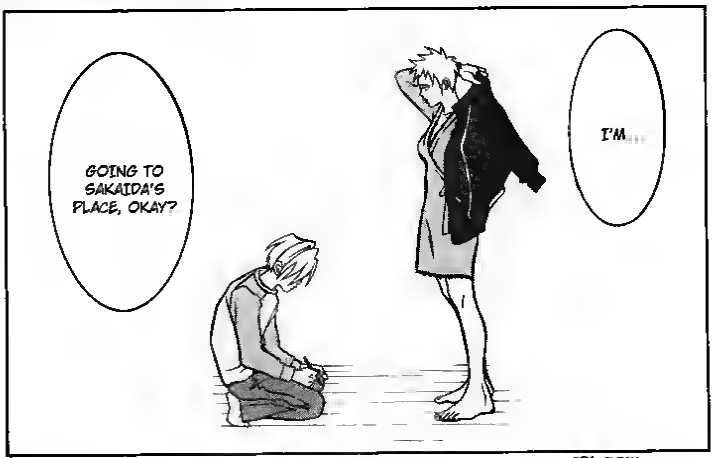
I PRETENDED THAT I WAS THE ONE WHO UNDERSTOOD YOU MOST,
YET I'M THE ONE WHO'S MOST GUILTY OF TURNING MY BACK ON YOU


STILL, I WAS LONELY.
AH!
AND YOU EVEN ALLOWED ME TO PRETEND TO BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND, BUT...
I WAS SPOILED BY YOUR KINDNESS,
ぎゅっ

TETSUO.
I WAS LONELY ALL THIS TIME.
5
I WAS SO STUPID, WASN'T I?
..AS THEY SAY, YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.
IT MUST'VE BEEN HARD FOR YOU ALL THIS WHILE.
I WON'T CLING TO YOU ANYMORE.
I'M SORRY.

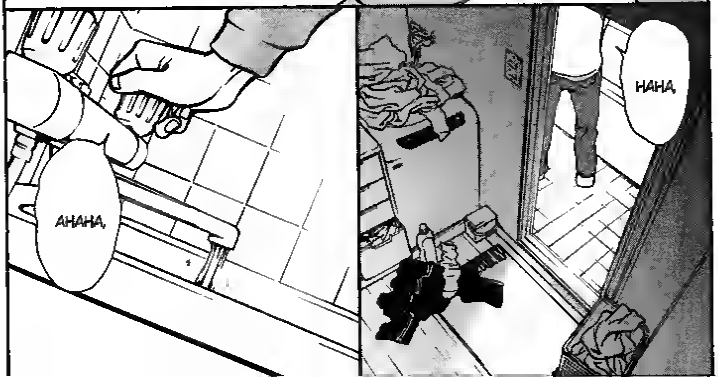






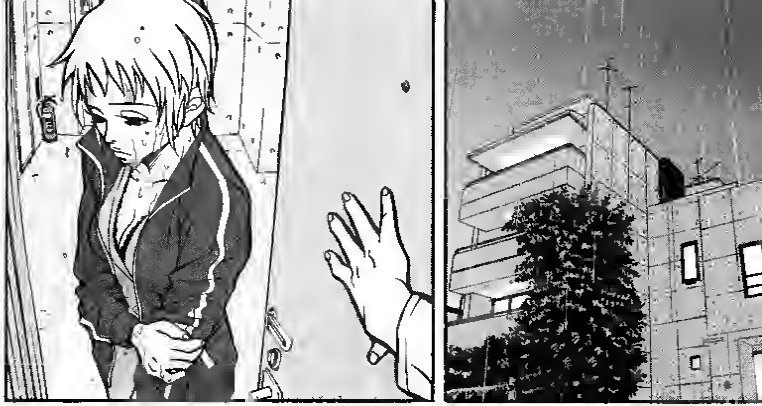
SFX. CLICK

..HA,
HAHA,


HAHA,
AHAHA,

EVEN THOUGH I WAS EMPTY FROM THE START,
HAHA,
AHAHA,
IT'S NOTHING.
IT'S NOTHING.
SFX FLOWING WATER
SFX FLOWING WATER
MOTHER.

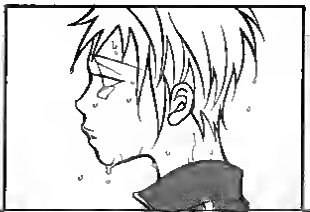
THERE WAS NOTHING GOOD AT ALL ABOUT...
DRAWING MANGA.
EVEN AT THE VERY END, I WASN'T ABLE TO TELL KUMIKO.
SOME DAY,
WOULD YOU BE MY...



KUMIKO...

SFX: GRAB

HAHA
YOU'RE PROBABLY WORRIED BECAUSE OF THAT...
...WH-OOPS,



AH, THE LANDLORD'S OUT WORKING SO DON'T WORR!.

HEY... YOU'RE GONNA CATCH A COLD, GO TAKE A BATH FIRST.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU'RE SOAKED TO THE BONE.
...BUT,

...
HEY
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
KUMIKO
IN ANY CASE, GO TAKE A BATH.
'KAY?

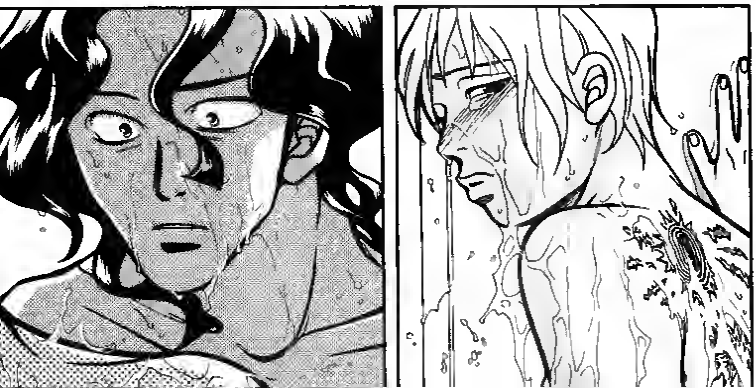
..BATHE ME.

SFX: SQUEEZE

...YOU ASKED FOR IT

HAA!
SFX. VSHHH
HAA!
HAA!
12
HAA!
HAA!
HAA!

AH!...
HAA!
HAA!
.....
IS IT ABOUT TETSUO?
IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED...
...I DON'T THINK I CAN GO ON...
.....
SAK-AIDA?



WAIT A MINUTE
?
SAVE ME SAKAIDA
WH.. WHAT THE HECK...
..IS THIS?
TETSUO.. HE...
DREW THESE ON ME JUST NOW.
SAVE ME SAKAIDA

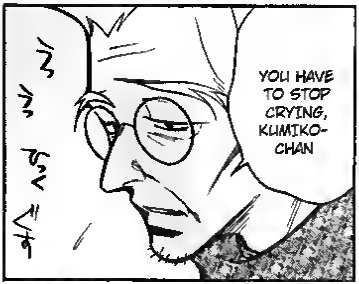
...KUMIKO
...
TAKE ME TO TETSUO'S PLACE NOW...
SFX. BAM
THIS IS BAD!

BUT HIS SHOES ARE HERE!
..HE'S NOT HERE?!
TETSUO!
SFX: BAM
SFX: FLOWING WATER
SFX: THUD THUD
N..
SFX: BAM
I DON'T WANT TO OPEN IT.
NO..

YOU IDIOT!!
YOU CHOSE TO END THIS WITH SOME CHEAP DRAMA?!
KUMIKO, CALL AN AMBULANCE!
KUMIKO!

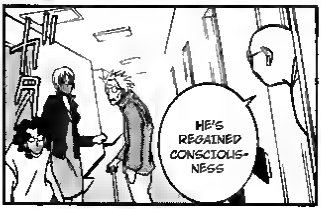
WHAT'S GOING ON..?
AND HE SLIT HIS WRIST IN THE EXACT SAME WAY AS I DID, YOU KNOW..?
YOU CAN CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE FROM YOUR PLACE, RIGHT?
HURRY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KUMIKO?!
HE COLLAPSED IN THE EXACT SAME WAY AS HIS MOTHER.
SFX: SHAKE SHAKE
...BUT...
LISTEN TO ME.
SFX: TREMBLE TREMBLE
THAT HAND...
...WHAT'S MORE,
21

SFX: SOB SOB HIC SNIFFLE



SIGN: SUGAWARA GENERAL HOSPITAL

22 SFX: CLATTER



SFX: SOB HIC SNIFFLE

SFX: SOB HIC SNIFFLE

IF HE GOES FOR PHYSIOTHERAPY IT PROBABLY WON'T BE TOO DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO GO ABOUT HIS DAILY ACTIVITIES, BUT..
THE MEDIAN NERVE WAS CUT SLIGHTLY SO HE WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE NORMALLY FOR A WHILE.
HE WAS LUCKY THAT YOU FOUND HIM QUICKLY AND THAT HE USED HIS WEAKER HAND TO SLIT HIS WRIST VERTICALLY, ALONG THE ARTERY.

WHAT?
BUT JUST SEVERAL DAYS AGO A WORN-OUT TETCHAN TOLD RIKO "I'M RETURNING WHAT I OWED ALL ALONG" AND HANDED HER SEVERAL MILLION YEN
IT'S ONLY BEEN 3 MONTHS SINCE THE FUNERAL,

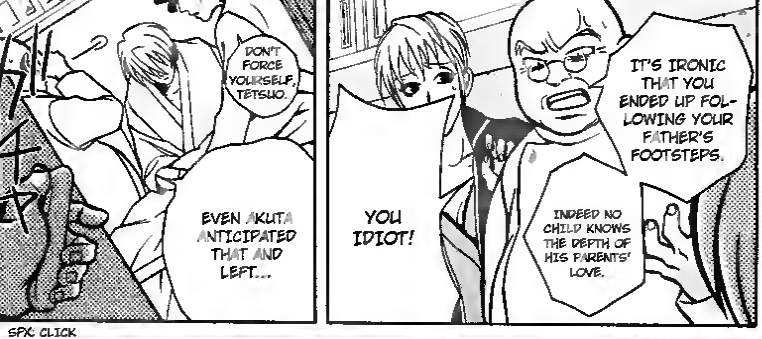
I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE AT THIS STAGE
WILL HE BE ABLE DRAW MANGA LIKE BEFORE...

...YOU KNOW,

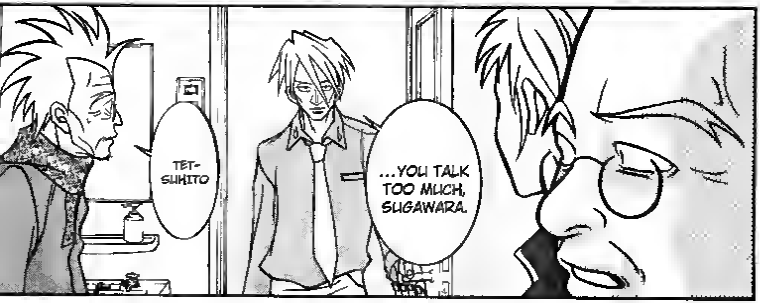
TO PREVENT SOMETHING LIKE THIS FROM HAPPENING
THAT'S WHY EMIKO PROTESTED SO STRONGLY AGAINST IT
... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON, EH?
SEEING HOW EXHAUSTED HE WAS, SHE TOLD HIM HE DIDN'T OWE US ANY MONEY, BUT HE DIDN'T LISTEN

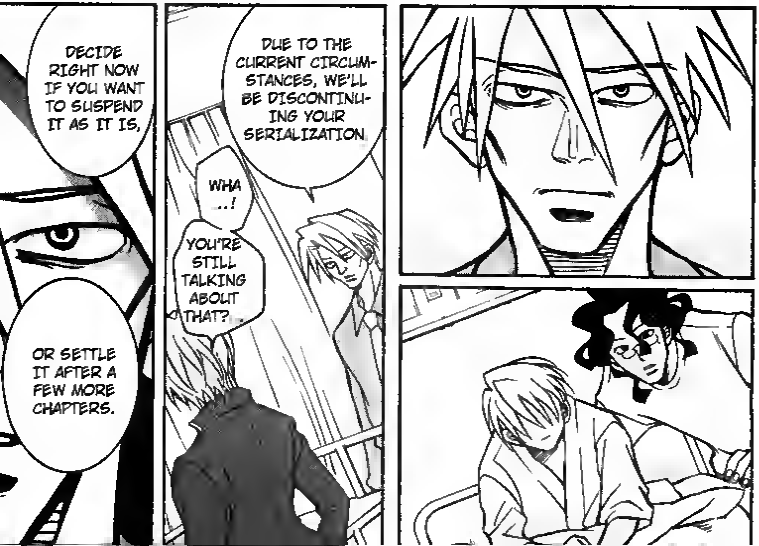
NO,
IT WAS KILLING HIM.
THOUGH HE WAS REGARDED AS A GENIUS,
HE DEBUTED IN HIS THIRD YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.
HIS PERFECTIONISM LEAD TO MANGA TEARING HIM APART.
THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO AKUTA IN THE PAST.
...HE WAS A MANGA ARTIST TOO.
TAKING UP SUCH AN OCCUPATION IS DANGEROUS.
EXTRAORDINARY TALENT WILL EAT AWAY AT YOU.
24
SO THAT TETSUO WOULDN'T TURN OUT LIKE THAT.
BUT SHE KEPT A DISTANCE FROM IT,
TETSUO
SHE DID NOT HATE MANGA.
THE ONE WHO SUPPORTED AKUTA BACK THEN WAS EMIKO.


DON'T FORCE YOURSELF, TETSUO.
EVEN AKUTA ANTICIPATED THAT AND LEFT...
YOU IDIOT!
INDEED NO CHILD KNOWS THE DEPTH OF HIS PARENTS' LOVE.
IT'S IRONIC THAT YOU ENDED UP FOLLOWING YOUR FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS.

SFX: CLICK

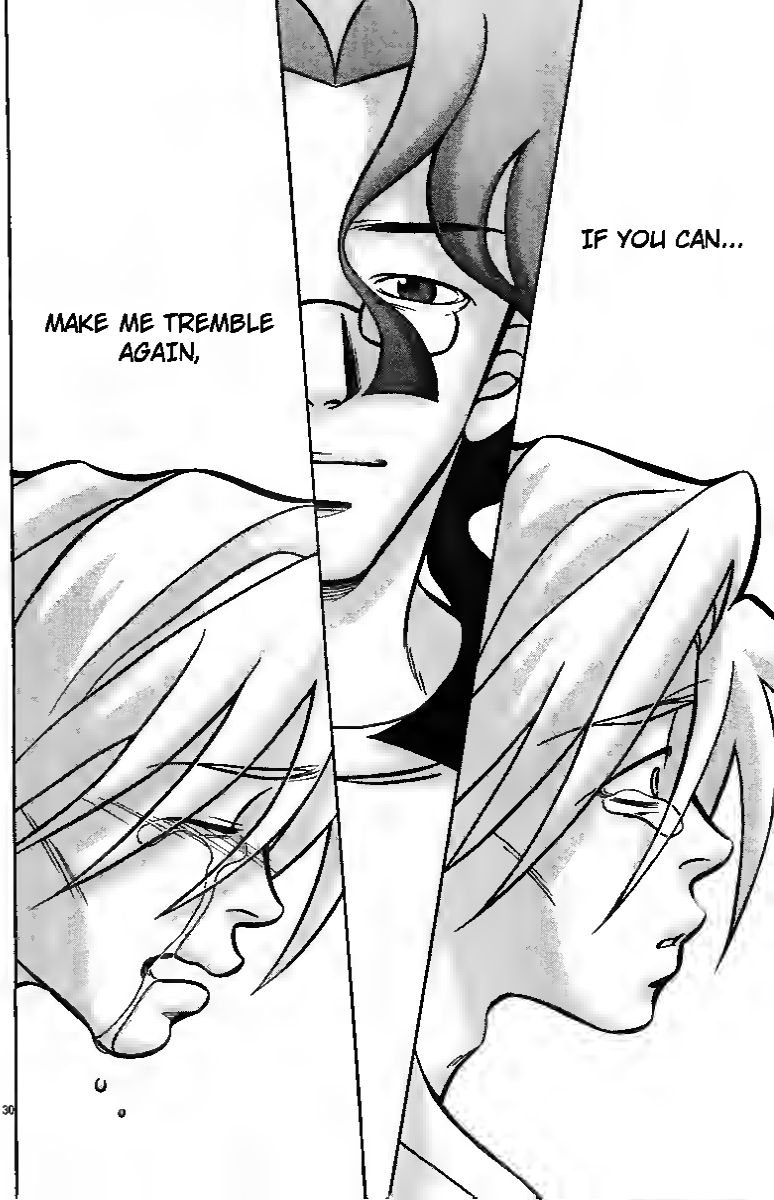

TETSUHITO
...YOU TALK TOO MUCH, SUGAWARA.

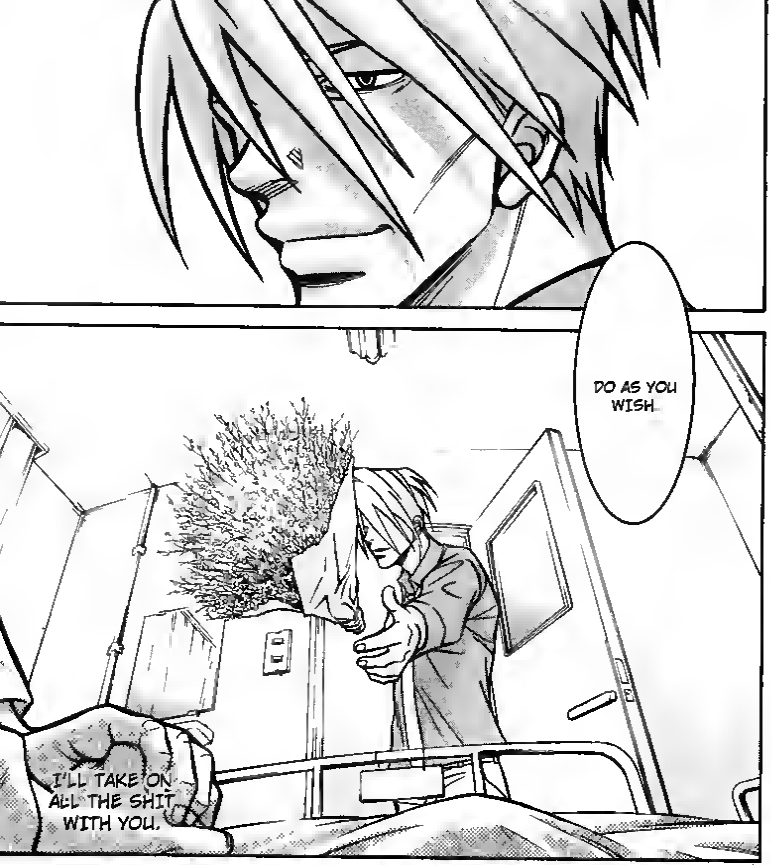
25


DECIDE RIGHT NOW IF YOU WANT TO SUSPEND IT AS IT IS,
OR SETTLE IT AFTER A FEW MORE CHAPTERS.
DUE TO THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WE'LL BE DISCONTINUING YOUR SERIALIZATION.
WHA ..!
YOU'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT THAT?

ARE YOU...
GOING TO LEAVE ME TOO?
IT TAKES A HEALTHY MIND..
TO DRAW A GOOD MANGA
I'LL QUI...

I WILL BE TETSUO'S HANDS.
I WILL CONTINUE THE SERIES.


IF YOU CAN...
MAKE ME TREMBLE AGAIN,


DO AS YOU WISH.
I'LL TAKE ON ALL THE SHIT WITH YOU.

ALL THE SHIT THAT THE WORLD
WILL TRY TO HEAVE ON US.

TRANSLATION: DEMIOTAKU
TYPESETTING: CRAZYANKAN
CLEANING: ANPWN, HINOKAI & CRAZYANKAN
PROOFREADING: KATYDID, YSQUARED
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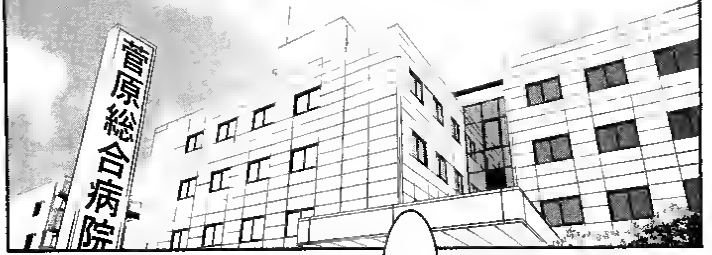
Act. 17 UNWAVERING



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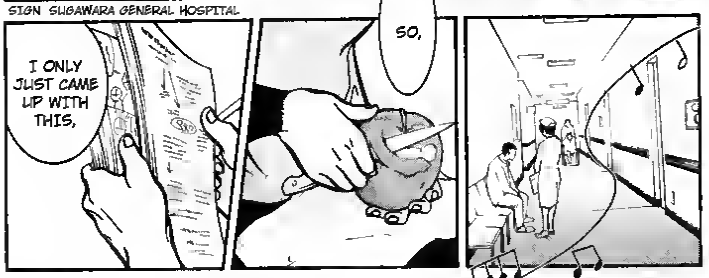
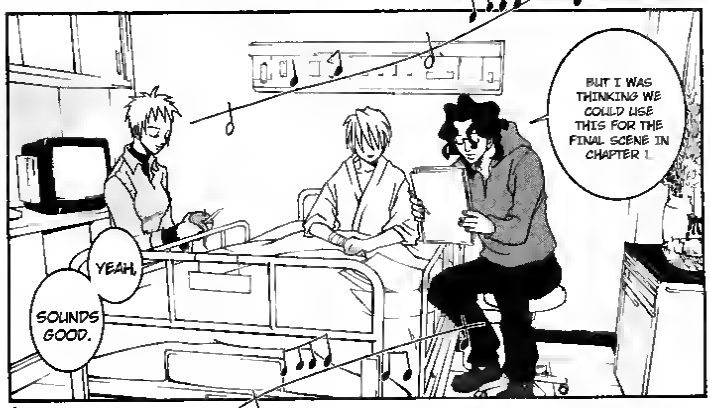
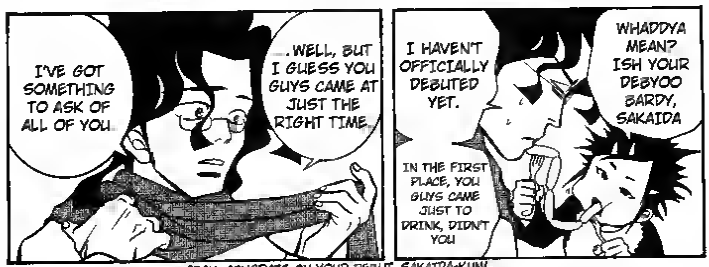




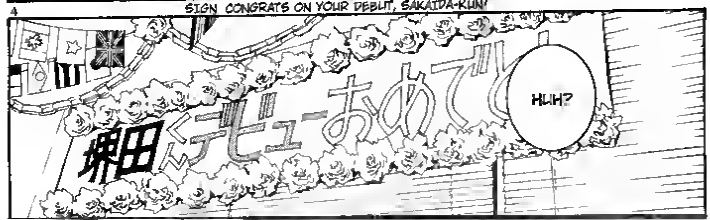
KUMIKO'S FATHER IS PLAYING IT ON A VIOLIN FOR A PATIENT.
REALLY?
THAT BALD MAN'S MORE TALENTED THAN HE LOOKS.
"AIR ON THE G STRING."*
AH YES, THAT'S IT.
I HEAR HE ACTUALLY ASPIRED TO BE A VIOLINIST IN THE PAST.
WOW...
...WHAT ABOUT YOU?
HUH?
WHAT DID YOU ASPIRE TO BECOME IN THE PAST?
KEEPING SECRETS FROM ME?
I SEE..

TL NOTE: *J. S. BACH'S ORCHESTRAL SUITE NO. 3 IN D MAJOR, BWV 1068.

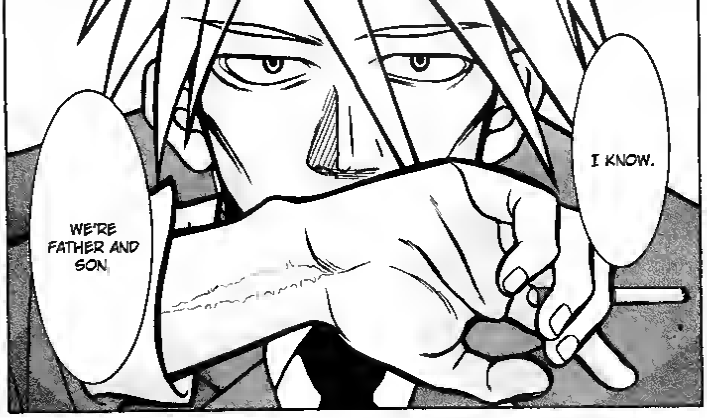
TL NOTE 'LEAD ACTOR'='STAR' BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT SOUND RIGHT...


I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO ASK OF ALL OF YOU.
...WELL, BUT I GUESS YOU GUYS CAME AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME.
I HAVEN'T OFFICIALLY DEBUTED YET.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOU GUYS CAME JUST TO DRINK, DIDN'T YOU
WHADDYA MEAN? ISH YOUR DEBYOO BARDY, SAKAIDA

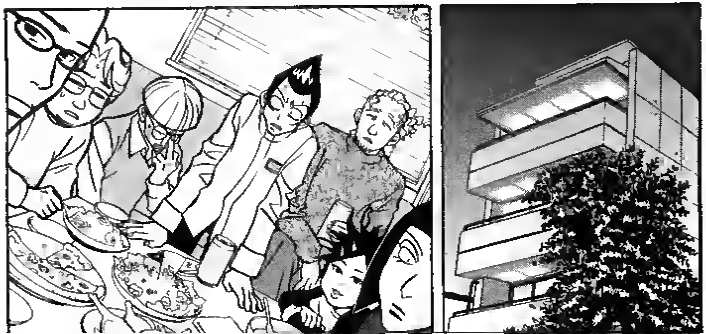
SIGN CONGRATS ON YOUR DEBUT, SAKAIDA-KUN!



CHIEF
高学館
BESIDES, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR HASEGAWA-SENSEI TO START OVER IN A MONTH'S TIME
TO DISCONTINUE IT WITH JUST TWO MORE CHAPTERS AT THE PEAK OF ITS POPULARITY IS JUST..
THE COMPLAINTS AND INQUIRIES REGARDING THE SUSPENSION OF "SAKURA NO MICHI" ARE OVERWHELMING
BUT WHY?!
NO CAN DO.
CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?!
END..?
.....
CHIEF ...?
HOW WOULD... YOU KNOW THAT,
BECAUSE THOSE TWO CHAPTERS WILL BE THE END OF THE MANGA ARTIST HASE-GAWA TETSUO.

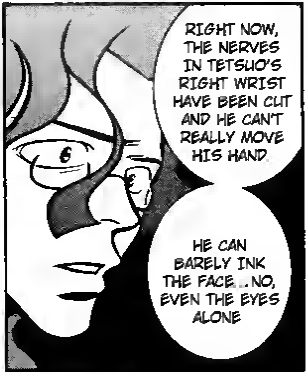

I KNOW.
WE'RE FATHER AND SON.

I'M NOT JOKING.
UH
..IT'S BETTER TO STRIKE WHILE THE IRON'S HOT



YOU WANT US TO...
HELP WITH THE "SAKURA NO MICHI" MANU-SCRIPTS...?
YES.
THE DEADLINE'S IN TWO WEEKS' TIME, TWO CHAPTERS WITH A TOTAL OF 38 PAGES.

TO SOMEHOW FORGE TWO CHAPTERS' WORTH OF TETSUO'S DRAWINGS?
YOU WANT US TO USE THE SKILLS WE POSSESS,
IN OTHER WORDS


RIGHT NOW, THE NERVES IN TETSUO'S RIGHT WRIST HAVE BEEN CUT AND HE CAN'T REALLY MOVE HIS HAND.
HE CAN BARELY INK THE FACE... NO, EVEN THE EYES ALONE

WAIT A MINUTE, HE'S GONNA END THAT SERIES IN JUST TWO MORE CHAP-TERS?!
WHY MUST WE GO TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF HELPING HIM WITH SOMETHING WE AREN'T EVEN FAMIL-IAR WITH?
WE ARE HIS RIVALS AFTER ALL, YOU KNOW?!
WH...AT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
THAT'S RIGHT.

HEY, THEN DOESN'T THAT MAKE IT SOMETHING ELSE ALTOGETHER AND NOT HIS MANGA?!
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, STOP MAKING LIGHT OF THE READERS!
HUH?!
HOW DID HASEGAWA-KUN MANAGE THE NAMES WITH HIS HAND LIKE THAT...?
I CAME UP WITH THEM.
I KNOW!
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?!
HYPOCRISY?
THE WAY I SEE IT, WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS NOTHING BUT HYPOCRISY
..COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE FEELING RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIS INJURY?
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN COME UP WITH THE CONTINUATION OF HIS STORY.
THAT'S NOT IT.
THIS IS NECESSARY.
8
SFX: HAM
PRIDE?
....HAVE YOU NO PRIDE, THE BOTH OF YOU?...
I JUST KNOW IT.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE'LL USE WHATEVER UNDERHANDED METHODS TO COMPLETE THIS.
OF COURSE WE DO.
PLEASE HELP US.
SO PLEASE.
I'LL HELP.
KISHITOE-SAN?!
SERIOUSLY?!
HOW-EVER,
NOTHING CAN COM-PARE TO THE CHEMISTRY BETWEEN YOU TWO, EH?

I'D LIKE YOU TO GUARANTEE AN EQUAL SPLIT OF THE PAYMENT FOR THE MANUSCRIPTS OF YOUR DEBUT WORK AND THOSE TWO CHAPTERS.
HOW'S THAT?
NO PROBLEM?
I'LL DO IT TOO..
'S FINE AS LONG AS I DRAW IT THE EXACT SAME WAY, RIGHT?
I'M GOOD AT THAT.
I WANTED TO TRY MAKING COUNTERFEIT NOTES ONCE .
I'LL HELP, SINCE THIS WILL PROBABLY HELP ME LEARN.
SFX CLICK
.I'M GOING HOME.
ME TOO
THIS IS DUMB
...SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO HELP TAKIZAWA-SENSEI WITH HIS WORK...
.I'M SORRY, INO-SAN
JUST WHEN YOU'D PREPARED ALL THIS FOR ME
SAKAIDA-CHAN
10

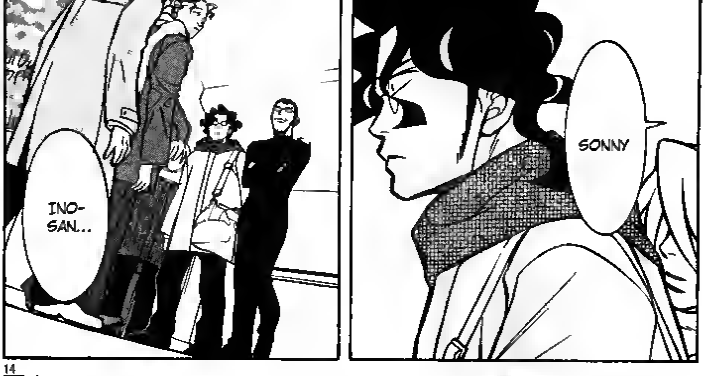
SIGN SUGAWARA GEN

SFX. CLACK

THEY'VE STARTED PREPARATIONS FOR DRAWING OVER AT YOUR PLACE ALREADY.
DON'T BE SURPRISED, IT'S KINDA LIKE THEY'RE A WHOLE BIG FAMILY.
I'M GLAD YOU GOT DISCHARGED EARLIER THAN I THOUGHT.
YEP.
I WAS HELPING MYSELF TO THE KITCHEN
ARE YOU HUNGRY? NEED A MEAL?
OH MY, WELCOME BACK. ♡

I'M GLAD YOU GOT OUT OF IT SAFELY.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD ON YOU.
SFX: SQUEEZE
COME ON NOW..
SO CUTE!! ♡ ♡
HIS HAND IS !
SFX: BOW
NICE TO MEET YOU.
THIS IS INO-SAN, THE VETERAN WHO'S BEEN TAKING CARE OF ME SINCE THE AWARDS CEREMONY.
OH MY.. ♡

IT'S ALL THANKS TO SAKAIDA-KUN.
WAIT A MINUTE!
YOU HAVE YOUR OWN MANUSCRIPT DUE NEXT MONTH, DON'T YOU?
LET'S GO HOME, SADAO!
BUT...
ISN'T MANGA USUALLY DRAWN BY THE ORIGI-NAL AUTHOR, ANYWAY?!
SFX: DRAG DRAG DRAG
SFX: CHATTER CHATTER
IT'S SADAO-SAN'S CHOICE TO HELP IF HE WANTS TO, RIGHT?
AH, SAKAIDA-KUN
IT'S ALSO OUR CHOICE TO STOP HIM IF WE WANT TO, RIGHT?
SFX: GASP
...GOING SO FAR AS TO INVOLVE FRIENDS AND USE THEM TO COMPLETE THE DRAWING OF YOUR MANGA.
REALLY MAKES ME DOUBT YOUR RIGHT TO BE A WRITER.
RIGHT?
I NEVER HAD SUCH A THING IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO SAY?


INO-SAN...
SONNY

BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER TRULY BEEN WEAKENED
I SAID THAT,
"SONNY"?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN,

BECAUSE YOU ARE STILL IN YOUR COMFORT ZONES
YOUR WORDS DON'T REACH SAKAIDA-CHAN ANYMORE,

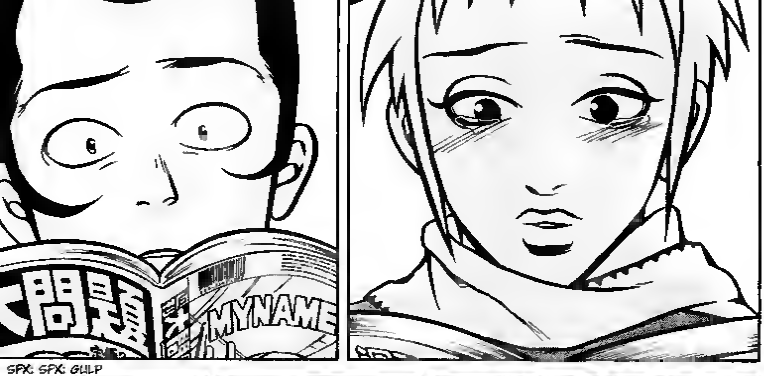
BOOK: THANK YOU FOR READING END

I WAS VERY DEPRESSED,
THAT THE AUTHOR WAS SENDING A MESSAGE WITH VERY STRONG FEELINGS EVEN FROM A VERY UNSTABLE AND RISKY POSITION.
I REALIZED AT THAT POINT IN TIME,

HONESTLY SPEAKING, I WANT TO..
PROTECT PEOPLE LIKE THAT.
16
THANK YOU FOR COMING.
INO-SAN
COME IN, SADAO-KUN.
IS MEANING-FUL IN ITS ENTIRETY.
FOR EVERYONE TO LOSE THEIR INDIVIDUALITY AND BE LIKE HASEGAWA-CHAN,
COME ON, LET'S EAT.
SFX CLICK!

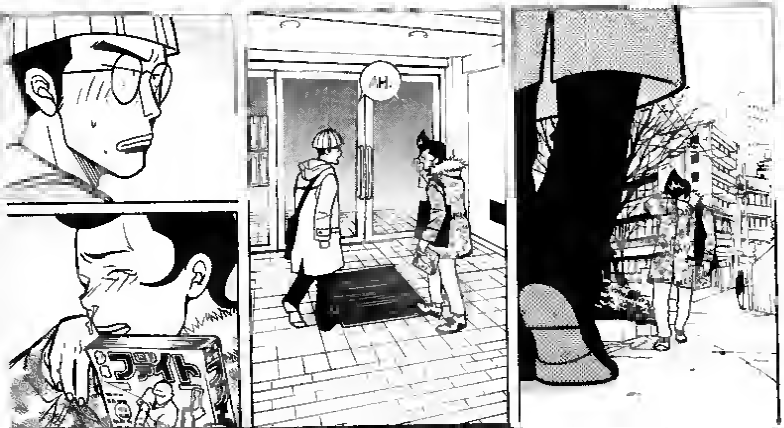
HEY,
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
HEY, IKAWA!
Y-YES?
Y... YES..
YOU'RE DRAWING FRIGHTFULLY WELL TODAY.
KEEP IT UP, YOU PIG-BASTARD!
YES?
ACTU-ALLY...
17
TYPICAL OF TAKIZAWA-SENSEI, RIGHT?
..I'VE SUDDENLY GOT LOTS OF FREE TIME THIS MONTH
WHY ARE YOU HERE...
IKAWA-CHAN...
I HEARD FROM THE EDITOR

WHOA!
SAKAIDA'S ONESHOT'S BEEN PUBLISHED THIS WEEK!
I GOTTA BUY IT!
!
SFX BADUMP
MAN, BUT THIS MUST HAVE TAKEN AGES TO DRAW..
YEAH, HE DID IT ALL BY HIMSELF..
SAKAIDA DIDN'T GO TODAY, EITHER, HUH?
IT SEEMS HE'S BEEN BUSY WRITING FOR TECCHAN'S SERIES ALL THIS WHILE
THEY'RE SAKAIDA'S FRIENDS..
AND HEY, THAT GIRL'S CUTE!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, TECCHAN'S HAND...
SAKAIDA-KUN SAID HE'D HELP WITH THE DRAWINGS AS WELL
BUT SAKAIDA'S DRAWINGS STILL KINDA SUCK, DON'T THEY...?
YEAH, WONDER HOW HE'S GONNA COPE...
HEY, KUMI...


MY NAME

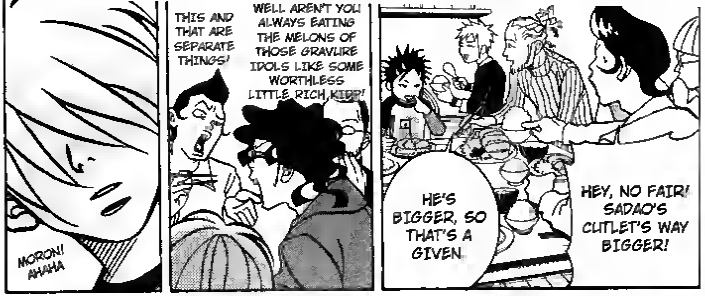
SFX: SFX: GULP

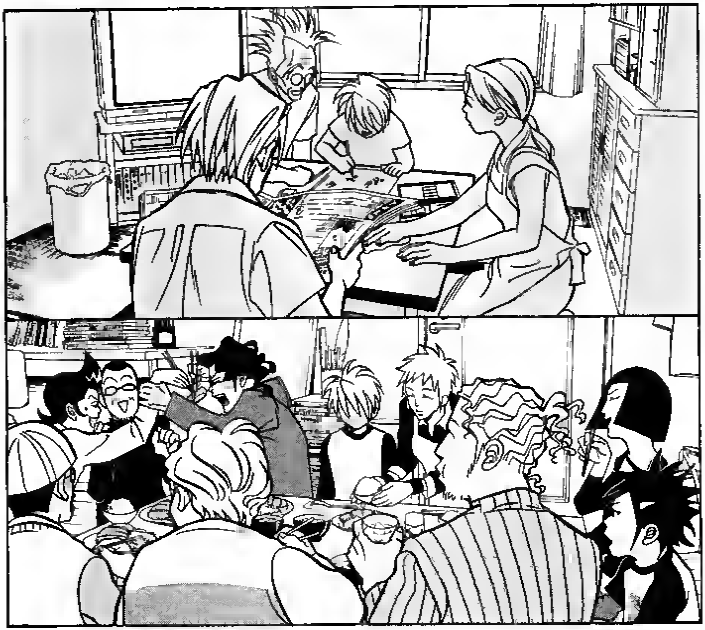
HEY... KUMIKO
IT WAS THAT GOOD.
I'M SURE IT WAS SAKAIDA-KUN'S INTENTION.
WH...WHY ARE YOU CRYING, KUMIKO?


AH.

YEEEEES!!
ALRIGHT, LET'S LINE THEM!
MY MY... BUT FOR FIGHT NEWCOMERS TO COME TOGETHER AND DRAW IS UNHEARD OF.
WE'LL DO FINE, WE DON'T CARE TOO MUCH ABOUT OUR REPUTATION.
PLEASE START INKING THEM.
THE NAMES ARE OK.
SFX: WOOT!
NOT JUST YET! THE EYEBROWS SHOULD BE MORE...
ISN'T IT PERFECT LIKE THIS?!
SAKAIDA-KUN.
I'LL LEAVE HASEGAWA-SENSEI TO YOU.
...THANK YOU SO MUCH.
TETSUO, IS THIS FINE...?
GOOD AFTER-NOON
WHOA, IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME!
AH!
AMAZ-ING
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CRIED AT THE BOOKSTORE YESTERDAY...
WELL THEN,
SHALL WE BEGIN?

WH...
WHO IS THIS GUY?!
AFTER THAT, I ALSO CRIED BECAUSE OF SAKAIDA'S MANGA!
SFX: GRAB
NO, THANK YOU
THANKS
...YOU READ IT.
SFX: WHISTLE
AH-YOU WERE DUMPED!
EH, WHAT, SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS?!
MY HEART JUST BROKE...
I CAME TO CHANGE TETSUO'S BANDAGES.
23
WILL YOU ALL QUIET DOWN AND DO YOUR WORK?!
WE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME IF WE KEEP DIGRESSING


MORON! AHAHA
THIS AND THAT ARE SEPARATE THINGS!
WELL AREN'T YOU ALWAYS EATING THE MELONS OF THOSE GRAVURE IDOLS LIKE SOME WORTHLESS LITTLE RICH KID?
HE'S BIGGER, SO THAT'S A GIVEN.
HEY, NO FAIR! SADAO'S CUTLET'S WAY BIGGER!

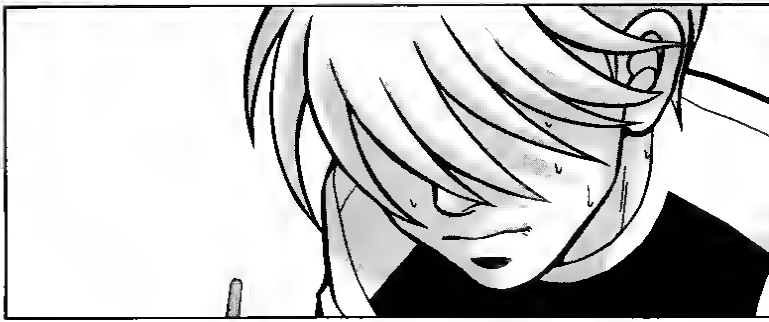


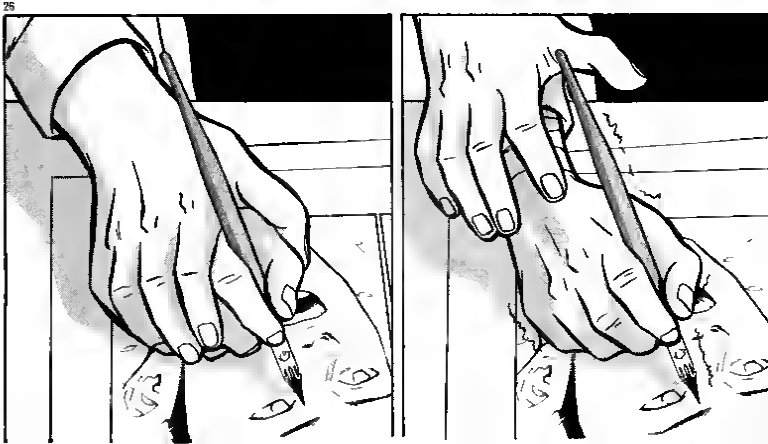
WHAT'S WRONG?
TETSUO ?

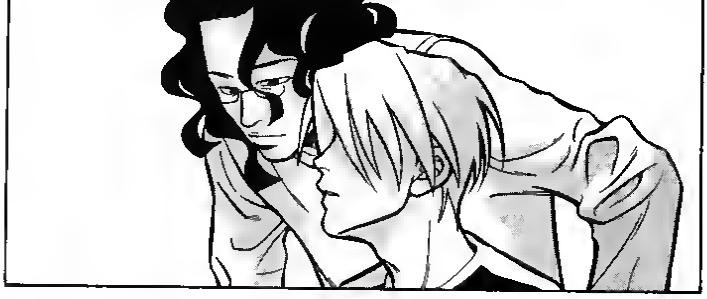
THAT'S RIGHT.
YEAH,
...EVERY-ONE'S HAVING FUN.
WE'RE ALL HAVING FUN.

NOTE: TOMORROW'S THE DEADLINE!!
DEAD-LINE (TINY)
SNOOORE
SNOOORE
SNOOORE
ZZZ
ZZZ

SFX: THUD

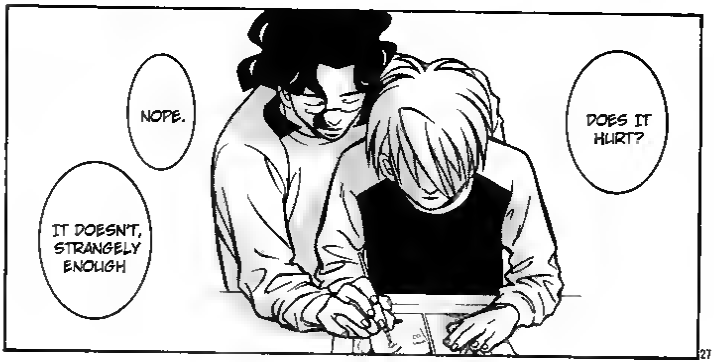






AH,

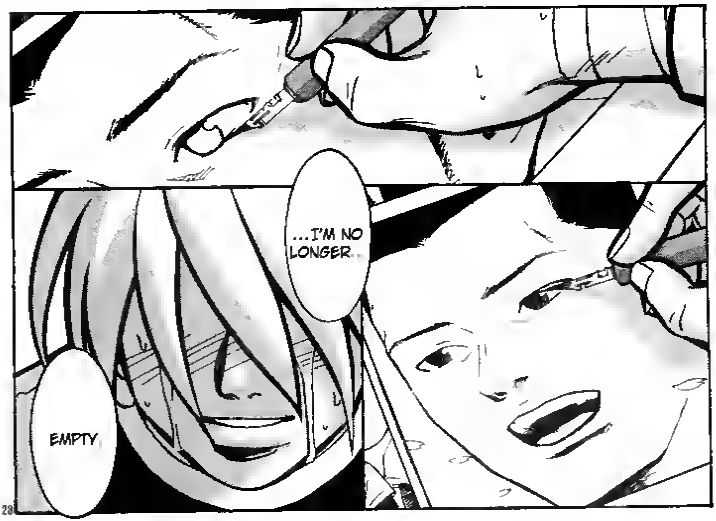
I WONDER WHAT THIS FEELING IS.



EVEN THOUGH MY BODY FEELS WARM,
MY HEART IS AT PEACE.

AH, I SEE,

WE CAN'T BE SHAKEN ANYMORE.



WE FOUND SOMETHING THAT WILL NOT WAVER NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS.

WE CAN PUT TO USE ALL WE'VE LEARNED
FROM OUR LIFETIMES THUS FAR.

LIFE WILL, WITHOUT A DOUBT,
NEVER BE A BORE FOR US AGAIN.

SIGN: KOUGAKUKAN
I SEE. THE BOTH OF YOU ARE GOING TO BE SERIALIZED AT THE SAME TIME, HUH?
THEY CALLED US HERE TO CELEBRATE OUR NEW SERIALIZATIONS
MACHI-ZOU
HEY DAD, EMIKO-SAN
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
GOOD AFTER-NOON, TETSUO-KUN
OH YEAH, DAD
SURE
WE'RE IN A RUSH FOR TIME, SO LET'S CHAT SOME OTHER TIME
MANGA ISN'T JUST MADE UP OF PICTURES AND WORDS, IS IT?
IT'S ALSO MADE UP OF THE WILL OF THE ARTIST.

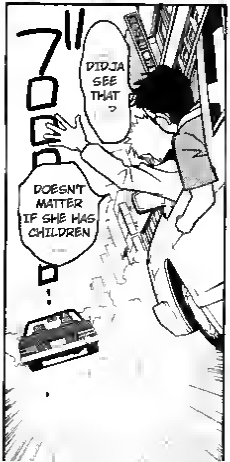
I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

WE'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD,

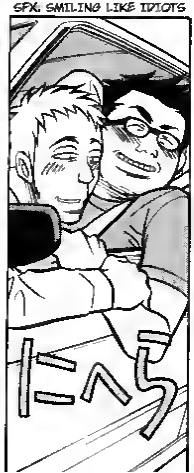
TO EVERY BIT OF THE FUTURE.

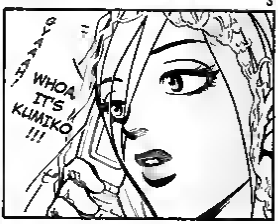
TRANSLATION: DEMIOTAKU
TYPESETTING: CRAZYANKAN
CLEANING: ANPWN, HINOKAI & CRAZYANKAN
PROOFREADING: KATYDID, YSQUARED
WWW.MYDAILYMANGA.COM

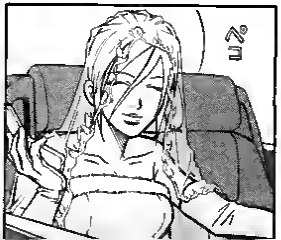
SFX: VROOOOM.



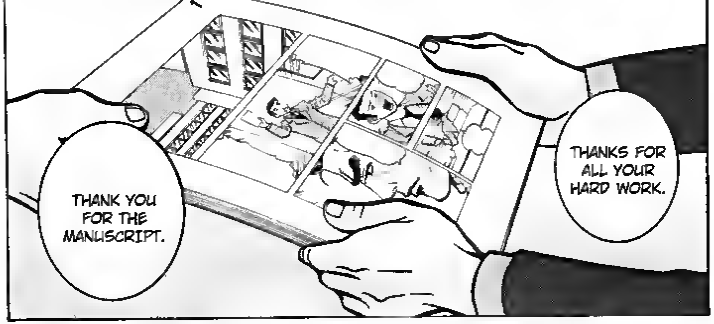
SFX: SMILING LIKE IDIOTS



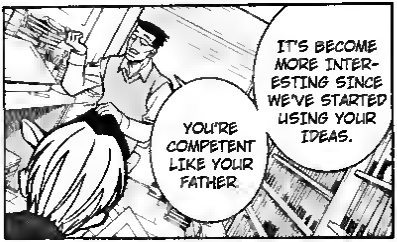




SFX. QUICK BOW


THANK YOU FOR THE MANUSCRIPT.
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.

NAH,
YOU WANNA GO FOR A DRINK? HOW 'BOUT THAT?
THERE'S A BAR THAT OPENS TILL NOON.
WEEKLY YOUNG


IT'S BECOME MORE INTERESTING SINCE WE'VE STARTED USING YOUR IDEAS.
YOU'RE COMPETENT LIKE YOUR FATHER

HAHAHA
WHAT'S MORE, YOU'RE PRETTY FAMILIAR WITH HOW MANGA IS MADE DESPITE BEING SUCH A YOUNG EDITOR.
COULD IT BE THAT YOU DREW MANGA IN THE PAST?

I APOLOGISE, BUT...
I'VE GOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO ATTEND TO JUST FOR TODAY.

UGH!
IT'S ALREADY 11?!
I WONDER IF I CAN REALLY FINISH THIS IN AN HOUR'S TIME ..
MACHIZOU, YOU UP?
I'M SORRY I'M MAKING A DIN EVEN THOUGH THIS IS THE LAST CHAPTER
YOU'LL BE FINE, ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE RE-TOUCHING
SPX CLATTER CLATTER
5
I CAN'T POSSIBLY BE SLEEPING NOW..
I'VE BEEN TRYING MY BEST SINCE THIS MORNING, RUMIKO
YOU'RE NOT DONE WITH THE MANUSCRIPT YET...?!
WHAT?
SENSEI, DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.
WHAT IS IT?
NAH. I WANT TO FINISH EVERYTHING ONCE AND FOR ALL TODAY.
WHY DON'T YOU START PREPARING TO SET OFF ALREADY?
IT IS TRUE
WE'LL COME BY TOMORROW AS WELL.

SFX: CHATTER CHATTER

INO-SAN, SO YOU TWO ARE THE MATCH-MAKERS TODAY?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M SO NERVOUS! ♡
OH YES, I RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A COMPANY. I WAS INAUGURATED AS COMPANY DIRECTOR.♡
LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR PATRONAGE ♡
SERIOUSLY ...?!
MY, IT'S BEEN 5 YEARS SINCE INO-SAN AND SHIRONO-SAN TIED THE KNOT HERE...
WHY DON'T YOU ALL HURRY UP AND SETTLE DOWN AS WELL ALREADY?

PAPER: INO ICHI - MANGA ASSISTANT - EMPLOYMENT

PAPER: INO ICHI-BAN...

PAPER: MANGA ASSISTANT

PAPER: EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

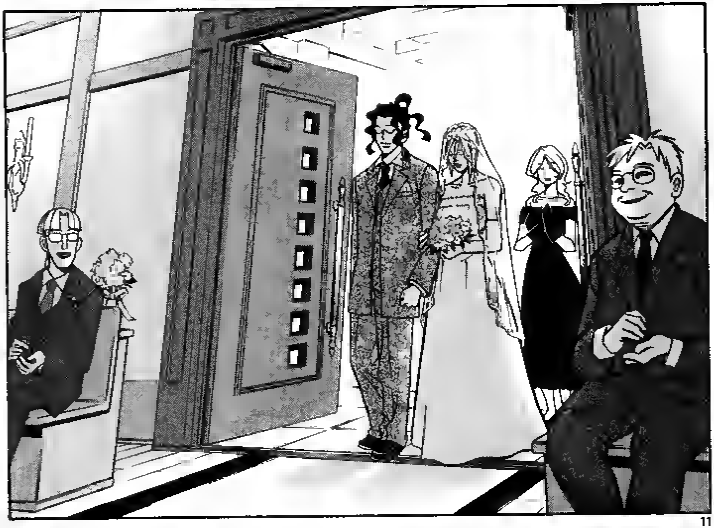
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE GOING "YES!".
YES..!
I SEE, NOW I CAN...!
YOU'LL BE TREATED AS A REGULAR EMPLOYEE ♡
FEEL FREE TO VISIT US IF YOU LOSE YOUR JOB ♡

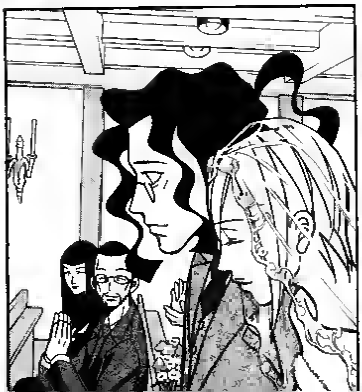
KUMIKO, YOU'RE LATE..!
MACHIZOU'S ON HIS WAY...
I'M SO SORRY, THE DRAMA FILMING ENDED LATE...
HUH, WHERE'S RUMIKO?
SFX: HUFF PUFF
控え室
YASUKO!
SIGN: WAITING ROOM
CONGRATULATIONS, KUMIKO
YOU LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL.
SURE IS TOUGH BEING POPULAR...
IT MUST BE GREAT NOW THAT YOU CAN FINALLY TAKE A BREAK
I'M ALL SET THANKS TO MY MAKEUP!
BUT LOOK,
?
SFX. STARE
8
WHERE'S KANEHARU?
HE'S GOT HIS HANDS FULL AT THE RECEPTION
BTSUO IS THE TOASTMASTER, SO HE'S DOING A MIC CHECK NOW
HE WAS WORRIED THAT MACHIZOU WOULDN'T COME.
IT COULDN'T BE HELPED YOU WERE PREGNANT WITH RUMIKO BACK THEN, AFTER ALL
AND EVEN AFTER YOU GAVE BIRTH TO HER, THE TWO OF YOU WERE BUSY
THANKS
I'M SORRY FOR DELAYING THE WEDDING CEREMONY ALL THESE 10 YEARS.

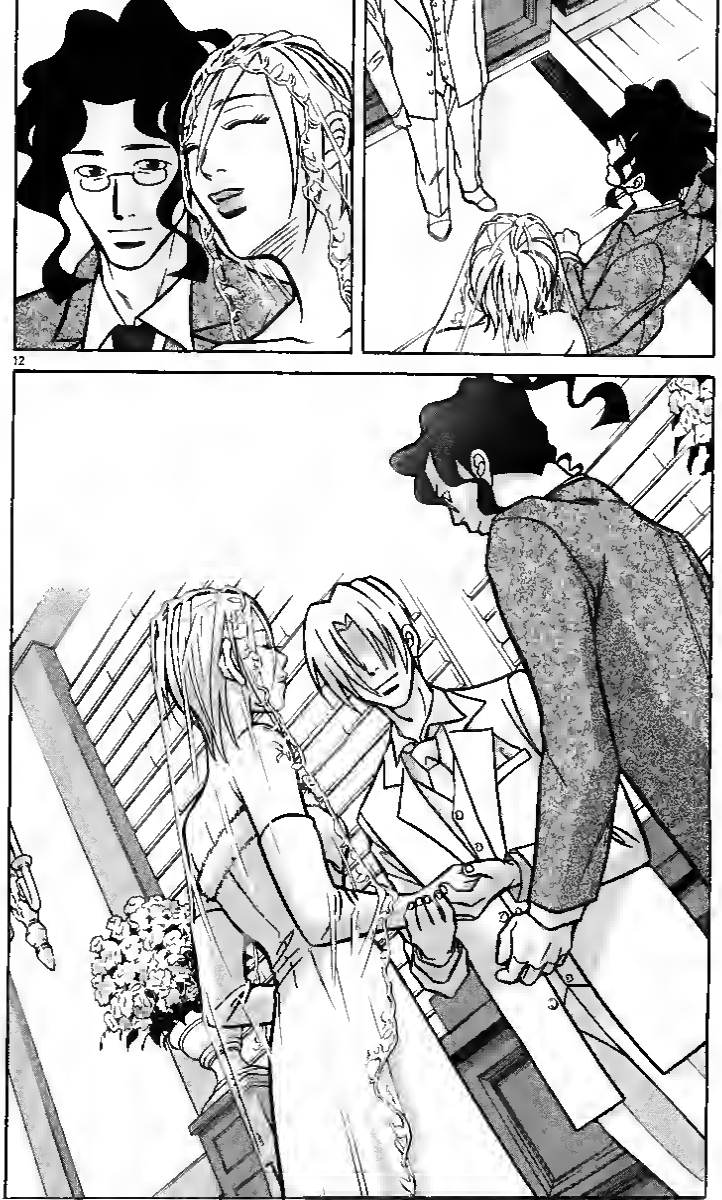
IF HE DOESN'T COME, WE CAN'T START, AFTER ALL
ISN'T HE STILL BUSY WITH WORK...?
SFX. CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER
EESH. SERIOUSLY ..?!
YOU'RE FINALLY HERE!
MACHIZOU, YOUR NECKTIE IS CROOKED!
OH!
SFX. WHEEZE WHEEZE
9
KEEP IT TOGETHER, MACHIZOU!
SURE.
SORRY ...
YOU'RE LATE, MACHIZOU!

THE BRIDE IS WAIT-ING OVER HERE
SORRY
YOU'RE LATE

YEP.
SHALL WE GO?

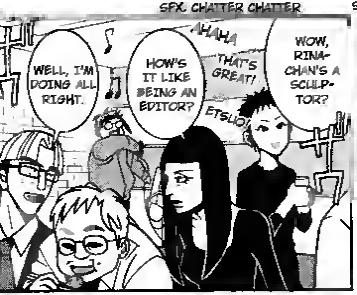






SFX. CLANG CLANG

SFX. CHATTER CHATTER



SFX. CLAP CLAP CLAP

SFX. CHEER

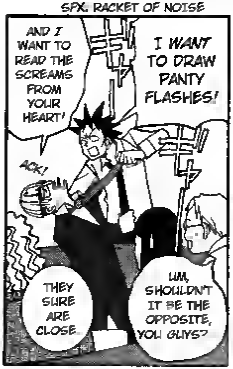
SFX. RING A LING A LING

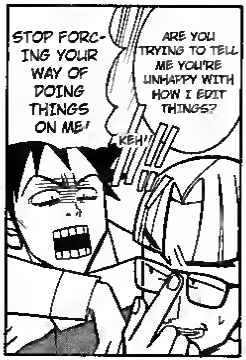
SFX. CHATTER CHATTER

SHIRONO-SAN, YOU'RE DRAWING FOR A SHOUJO MANGA MAG, AREN'T YOU?
DAD, MOM WAS SOO PRETTY TODAY, DON'T YOU THINK?
YEP.
AND YOU'RE DRAWING FOR A SEINEN MAG, RIGHT? I'VE BEEN READING THEM

HOW'RE YOU DOING IN YOUNG FIGHT, SADAO?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
IT'S ALMOST LIKE THEY'RE CALLED OUT EVERY DAY...
IT SURE IS TOUGH FOR ASSISTANTS OF LEADING MANGA ARTISTS...

SFX: RACKET OF NOISE


AND I WANT TO READ THE SCREAMS FROM YOUR HEART!
I WANT TO DRAW PANTY FLASHES!
ACK!
THEY SURE ARE CLOSE.
UM, SHOULDN'T IT BE THE OPPOSITE, YOU GUYS?

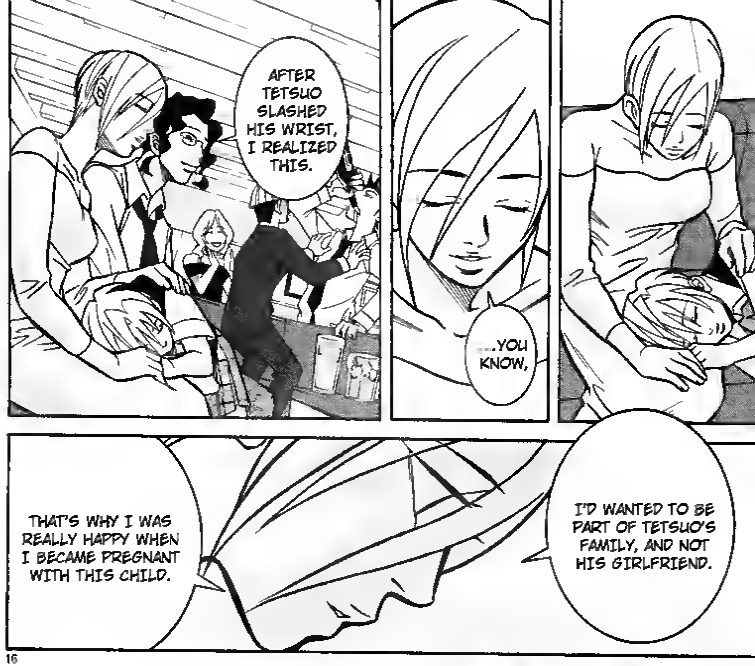


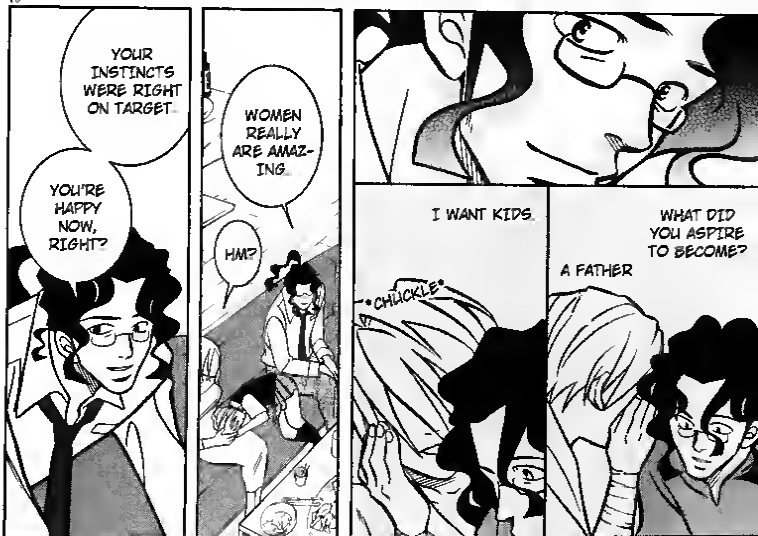
SOUNDS NICE. MAYBE I SHOULD GO OVER TO YOUNG FIGHT, TOO...
TETSUO-KUN'S IN CHARGE, SO MY JOB'S PRETTY EASY.
I WONDER WHY THIS GUY IS IN CHARGE IN MY CASE.

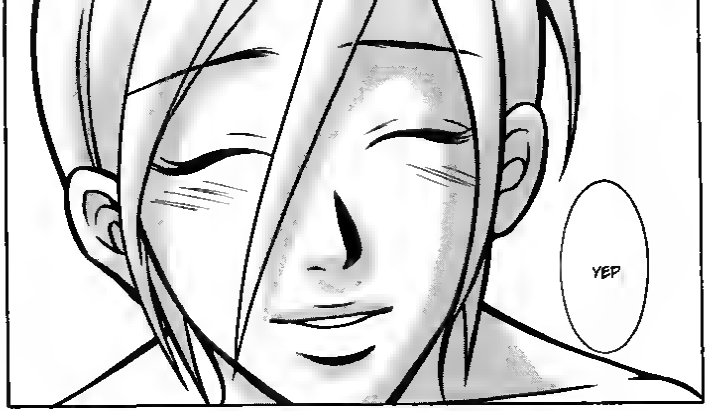
SFX: BADUMP

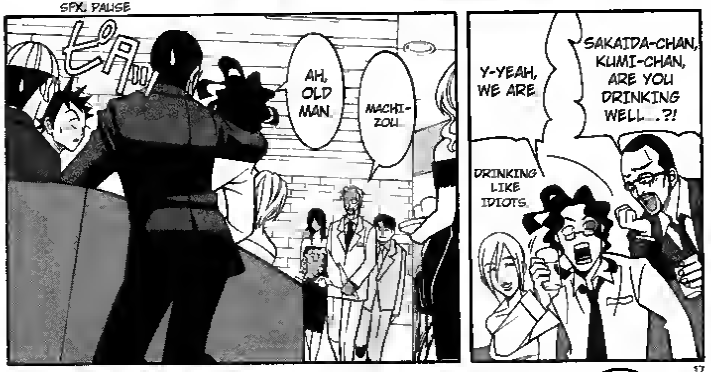
HUH?!
WHA...
YOU DRANK THE WHOLE NIGHT, WEREN'T YOU,
OH RIGHT, BACK WHEN CHIEF EDITOR AKUTA WAS TRANSFERRED TO YOUNG FIGHT,
YOU WERE LONELY, RIGHT?

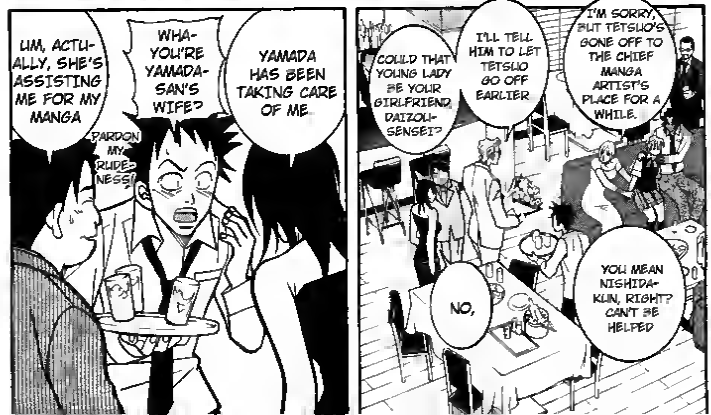
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I WOULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED THAT I WOULD BE WALKING DOWN VIRGIN ROAD IN HIS PLACE
YOU DID GREAT.
MACHI-IZOU
IT COULDN'T BE HELPED, HE HAS SURGERY TO ATTEND TO
HEY, GREAT JOB, LEAD ACTRESS!
IT'S A PITY YOUR OLD MAN COULDN'T MAKE IT.
AH, THAT ARTICLE ABOUT "KUMIKO'S ILLEGITIMATE CHILD DISCOVERED"?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU WERE TRYING TO HIDE IT, THOUGH
RECENTLY, IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S BEING BULLIED AT SCHOOL...
I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE RUMIKO'S BEEN CAUSING YOU AT WORK
YEP.
SHE WOKE UP PRETTY EARLY TODAY, AFTER ALL
SEEMS RUMIKO'S FALLEN ASLEEP
OH.
15
AND ALTHOUGH WE WERE SURPRISED WHEN YOU WERE PREGNANT WITH RUMIKO, NO ONE DISAPPROVED OF IT
THANK GOODNESS YOU MANAGED TO GRADUATE BEFORE IT STARTED TO SHOW
YOU AND ETSUO SET UP A THEATRE GROUP,
...MAN, BUT THESE 10 YEARS PASSED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
THANKS TO MR. KURATA, TETSUO WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO SCHOOL,


AFTER TETSUO SLASHED HIS WRIST, I REALIZED THIS.
...YOU KNOW,
I'D WANTED TO BE PART OF TETSUO'S FAMILY, AND NOT HIS GIRLFRIEND.
THAT'S WHY I WAS REALLY HAPPY WHEN I BECAME PREGNANT WITH THIS CHILD.


YOUR INSTINCTS WERE RIGHT ON TARGET.
YOU'RE HAPPY NOW, RIGHT?
WOMEN REALLY ARE AMAZING.
HM?
I WANT KIDS.
WHAT DID YOU ASPIRE TO BECOME?
A FATHER
CHUCKLE


YEP


SFX: PAUSE
AH, OLD MAN.
MACHI-ZOU.
Y-YEAH, WE ARE
SAKAIDA-CHAN, KUMI-CHAN, ARE YOU DRINKING WELL...?!
DRINKING LIKE IDIOTS.


UM, ACTUALLY, SHE'S ASSISTING ME FOR MY MANGA
WHA- YOU'RE YAMADA-SAN'S WIFE?
YAMADA HAS BEEN TAKING CARE OF ME.
PARDON MY RUDENESS!
COULD THAT YOUNG LADY BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND, DAIZOU-SENSEI?
I'LL TELL HIM TO LET TETSUO GO OFF EARLIER
I'M SORRY, BUT TETSUO'S GONE OFF TO THE CHIEF MANGA ARTIST'S PLACE FOR A WHILE.
NO,
YOU MEAN NISHIDA-KUN, RIGHT? CAN'T BE HELPED

MY NAME IS SHUUKOU ISHINAMI
NICE TO MEET YOU.
SFX: NOD OFF
SFX: CHATTER CHATTER
ISHINAMI WAS FEMALE ...?!
I'M A HUGE FAN OF YOURS
ME TOO
ME THREE
AS WELL AS ME
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, EH
HOW'S MOM DOING?
YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN BACK TOGETHER YET?
DAMN THAT INABA! KEEPING IT ALL TO HIMSELF!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
IT WON'T WORK UNLESS WE HAVE A COMBINED WEDDING CEREMONY WITH YOURS.
18
SFX: PFFT
LONG TIME NO SEE!
SAKAI-SENSEI...!
IS THAT SO? I HEARD SOMETHING LIKE THAT FROM AKUTA, BUT...
IT SEEMS LIKE EVEN THAT HASN'T BEEN GOING WELL.
I'VE BEEN TREATING MANGA LIKE IT'S MY LOVER, BUT...
HAHA
I SEE... THAT REALLY IS TOO BAD...
UNFORTUNATELY, I'M SINGLE AS ALWAYS.

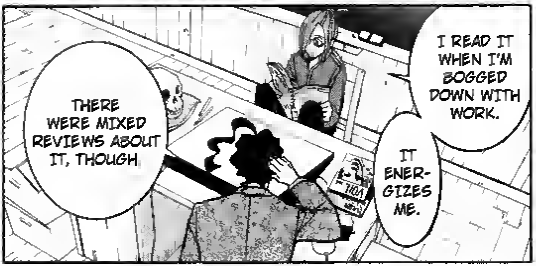
SFX: LIVELY CHATTER
ワイ
ワイ
KUMIKO
I'M GOING HOME.
HUH? WHY?
TETSUO'S COMING BACK SOON, TOO
YOU FINISHED THE MANUSCRIPT ALREADY, RIGHT?
RECENTLY, THE MORE FUN I HAVE AT THE FESTIVAL,
THE LONELIER I FEEL AFTER I GET HOME.
SORRY
COME ON, CHEER UP.
LET'S ALL DRINK TOGETHER AGAIN SOME OTHER DAY.
MACHIZOU, DO YOU REMEMBER?
19
YOU TOLD ME I WAS A WORK OF ART IN MYSELF.
THANK YOU
THE FACT THAT I'VE FOUND SOMETHING I'M GOOD AT APART FROM VOLLEYBALL,
IS ALL THANKS TO YOU.

IF IT WASN'T FOR TETSUO, YOU WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE BEEN MINE.
YOU WERE BEAUTIFUL TODAY.
KUMI-IKO.

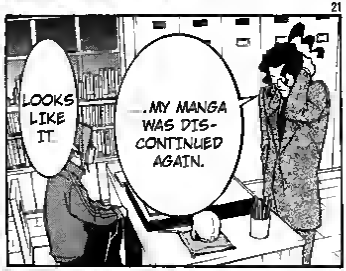
SFX. KNOCK KNOCK
MIYAKO-SENSEI?
COME IN...

...WHAT'RE YOU READ-ING?
HM ...?
THE LAST CHAPTER OF "SAKURA NO MICHI"...

I LIKE IT

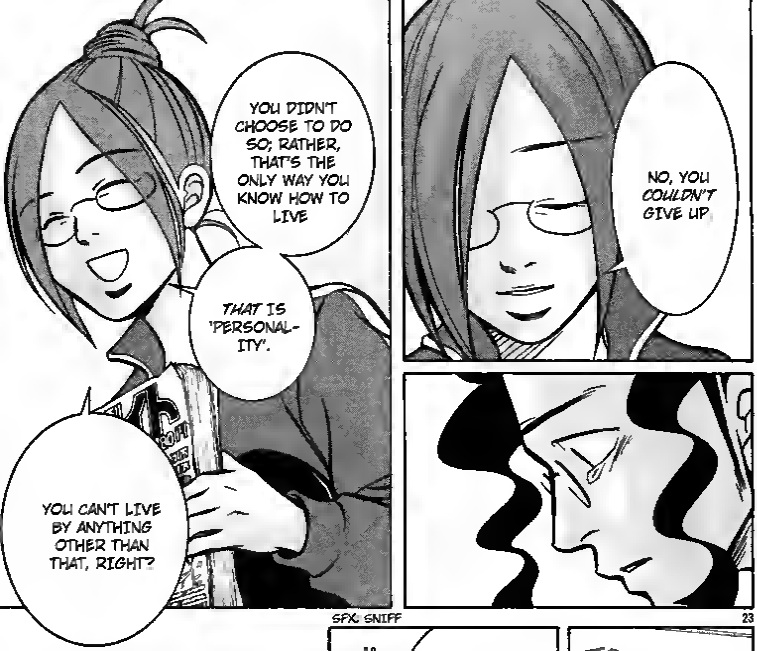

I READ IT WHEN I'M BOGGED DOWN WITH WORK.
IT ENER-GIZES ME.
THERE WERE MIXED REVIEWS ABOUT IT, THOUGH.

RIGHT NOW,
...YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND...
WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE UNABLE TO FULFILL YOUR CHILD'S WISHES
ALL THAT MY OLD MAN TOLD ME REALLY HITS HOME


LOOKS LIKE IT.
...MY MANGA WAS DIS-CONTINUED AGAIN.

...I HATE HOW I'M A MANGA ARTIST WHO CAN'T EVEN KEEP HIS CHARAC-TERS ALIVE.

WITH MY MANGA LIKE THIS,
EVEN IF THERE ARE READERS WHO ENJOY IT EVEN IF ONLY A LITTLE,
IT WOULD BE RUDE OF ME TO CONTINUE DOING THIS, RIGHT?
NO MATTER HOW MANY CHILDREN YOU HAVE,
IF YOU CAN'T RAISE THEM IN A WAY THAT FULFILLS THEIR WISHES,
MAYBE IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER TO NOT HAVE HAD THEM AT ALL.
...IN THE PAST, YOU TOLD ME THAT A PROFESSIONAL MANGA ARTIST NEEDED 'PERSONALITY'.
I DON'T HAVE THAT.
22
REGARDLESS OF TALENT, THERE ARE MANY WHO ARE UNABLE TO CONTINUE DOING THAT DUE TO VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.
HOWEVER, WHETHER FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, YOU DIDN'T GIVE UP ON MANGA, MACHIZOU-KUN.
...WHEN I SAID 'PERSONALITY',
I DIDN'T MEAN HAVING AN EMINENT PERSONALITY OR CHARACTER


YOU DIDN'T CHOOSE TO DO SO; RATHER, THAT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU KNOW HOW TO LIVE
THAT IS 'PERSONALITY'.
YOU CAN'T LIVE BY ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT, RIGHT?
NO, YOU COULDN'T GIVE UP

SFX: SNIFF

I GET THE FEELING THAT MY SUMMER HOMEWORK IS NEVER GOING TO END.
... DAMN

SHOULDN'T IT BE LIKE THIS?
AH, I SEE
HM..

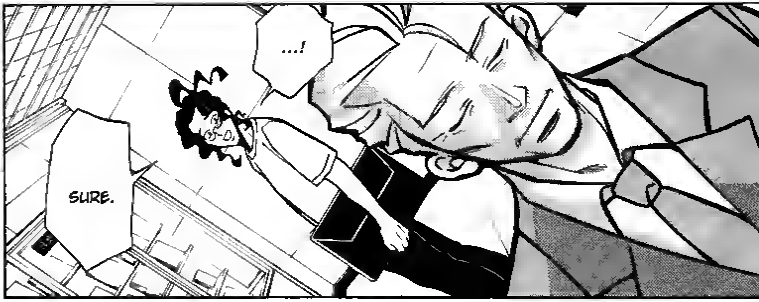
SFX. TEARING UP
ボロボロ
SFX. BAM!
MACHI-ZOU!
SFX. CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER
バタバタバタ

AH, THAT? IT WAS DISCONTINUED.
WHY?!
WASN'T POPULAR.
BUT I LIKED THE MAIN CHARACTER, TOO...!
WHAT ARE YOU CRYING ABOUT...?
AND YOU KNOW, I'M JUST ABOUT TO HEAD TO THE EDITING DEPARTMENT...
WHAT!
IS THIS SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
WHAT?
HEY, LIM, THEN,
SO MUCH THAT IF IT ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH, I WOULD QUIT BEING A MANGA ARTIST
YEAH
HOW MUCH?
BUT I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN MY NEXT NAME
REALLY?!
SORRY

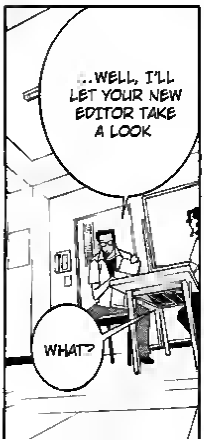
I'LL BE YOUR BRIDE, MACHIZOU, AS A REWARD!
IF IT CONTINUES TO BE SERIALIZED UNTIL I TURN 16,
HAVE A SAFE TRIP
...THAT WOULD BE AWKWARD...
AN AGE DIFFERENCE OF 10 YEARS
WELL, BUT I GUESS IF I'M 26 AND SHE'S 16
WHAT'S POSSIBLE IS POSSIBLE, I GUESS

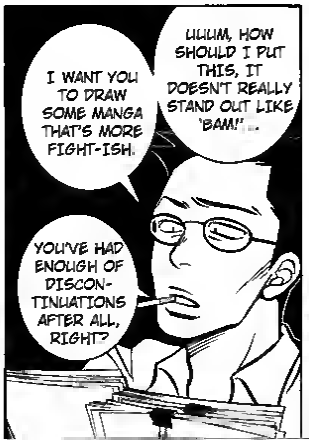
HEY.
AH, CHIEF EDITOR AKUTA.
SIGN: SHOU-GAKUKAN
THERE WAS A KID WHO WOULD KEEP GAZING AT THE BABY'S BREATH AT THE FLORIST'S
...IN THE PAST,
HUH?
I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEND YOU A GIFT AS WELL.
THANK YOU FOR THE BABY'S BREATH THE OTHER DAY
TETSUO AND KUMIKO WERE OVERJOYED
27
HE WAS QUALIFIED TO DO SO, YOU SEE.
HE SAID IT WAS BECAUSE THEY WERE FLOWERS THAT SUPPORTED THE LEAD ACTOR
WHEN I ASKED HIM WHY HE LIKED THEM,
SO I TOLD HIM TO DRAW MANGA.

IF THAT'S THE CASE,
WHY DON'T WE MAKE A NAME FOR OURSELVES AS SUPPORTING ACTORS?
IN THIS WORLD, THE READERS ARE THE LEAD ACTORS, THE FLOWERS.
AND WE ARE THE WEEDS WHO SUPPORT THEM.



SIGN: MONTHLY SHOUNEN FIGHT MEETING ROOM




I WANT YOU TO DRAW SOME MANGA THAT'S MORE FIGHT-ISH.
UHUM, HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS, IT DOESN'T REALLY STAND OUT LIKE 'BAM!'...
YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH OF DISCONTINUATIONS AFTER ALL, RIGHT?

SFX: CLICK
NO GOOD, HUH..
AH... DAMN.
SFX: TICK TOCK
GET
SFX: CLONK CLUNK CLONK CLUNK
IS THAT ...SO
KINDA SUDDEN, ISN'T IT?
WELL, I'VE BEEN TRANS-FERRED TO YOUNG FIGHT...
LET ME IN-TRODUCE YOU TO THE NEW EDITOR WHO'S TAKING OVER RIGHT AWAY.
SFX: CLATTER
SLEEPY
SFX: GENTLE BREATH-ING
SFX: CLONK CLUNK CLONK

IT'LL BE FINE ONCE YOU FIX THE ORGANI-ZATION.
ARE YOU REALLY SURE..?

AT THE VERY LEAST, I'VE NEVER SEEN A NAME FILLED WITH SO MUCH EMOTION. IT'S ALMOST LIKE A WILL.
IS THAT SO?
THIS IS LACK-ING, NO MATTER HOW I THINK ABOUT IT.

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN JUST WRITE THIS OFF AS LACKING.

NOT ME, ANYWAY.

I'M TETSUO HASEGAWA AND I'LL BE YOUR EDITOR, SAKAIDA-SENSEI.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
G SENJOU HEAVEN'S DOOR
END
G戦場ヘヴンズドア
完

BONUS TRACK

ボーナストラック

IKKI掲載時「作者一喜一憂」コメント（いわゆる作者近況報告）と自身によるその突っ込み

Air 13 / ワカラナイ

[作者近況]
我が家の職場の子猫は「ブル（ラ）ノ」と猫科の少しの「ノ」な鳴き声を出します。

[突っ込み]
我が家のかわいい里さん うすへに色の耳たぶをした子猫の「紅」はもう成猫になりました。投げた物を噛んで持ってくる犬のような猫です。メスですが勇敢です。

[IKKI13号 2002年12月25日]

Air 14 / キッカナイ

[作者近況]
IKKI身内化があまりにもめでたいので（中略）15年2月25日の今日 私 日本猫ヨヲコも結婚します。（中略）

[突っ込み]
といっわけで ヨメにいきました。幸せです。

[月刊IKKI4月号 2003年2月25日]

Air 15 / ヨウハナイ

[作者近況]
暮ですね。御入学御進級御就職のお祝いに
「G戦～」新装版1 2巻はとってでしょう。
3月29日（土）同時発売です。宜しくお願い致します。

[突っ込み]
価格 流通等などの関係から 現行本かA5判から B6判に変更することになり
旧1巻を買ってくださった方に大変申し訳なく思っております 本当にごめんなさい。
今回の決断にはIKKI編集部と作者の「ひとりでも多くの読者へこの単行本が届くように」との強い願いがこめられております。作者にとって一番辛いのは 読者様が「欲しくても無い」ということなので 読者様には申し訳ないと思いつつも なんとかお手元に届く手段を選びました。
これでも吉永の決断だったことを御理解頂ければ幸いです。作者からこんなこというのもなんなのですが
1巻を買い直して頂くなに作った新装版B6判1巻ではないので 旧1巻をお持ちの方は 新装版1巻を無理して購入されないでください。もし両方買ってくださった方がそこにいらしたら 抱き締めてます。

[月刊IKKI5月号 2003年3月25日]

Air 16 / ナンニモナイ

[作者近況]
新装版の単行本の帯 日本編が敏腕で止まない編本和彦先生と土田世紀先生にコメントを頂いて頂きました。大変恐縮で死ぬほど嬉しく 先生方の観かいある職業の慣れには脊筋が凍り付き 虹のように生きたい所存です。
本当にありがとうございました。
そしてお願い上げくださった読者様 愛してます。

[突っ込み]
巻1巻は編本和彦先生 第2巻は土田世紀先生 そして最終巻は諸子不二雄Ⓐ先生という恐縮で倒れそうな大先生方の観かいお言葉が身にしみて嬉しく 大変感謝致しております。
先生方への個人的な思い入れを綴っていくと 何ページあっても足りないので ここでは書けません。
また 大先生方の名作がある中 あまりプレッシャーを持たずに私がこのような漫画家マンガを描こうと思えたのは 3人の先生方とは全く異なる立場 私なら別の切り口で描けるのではないかと思っていたからです。本物じゃないから わかることがあると。

[月刊IKKI6月号 2003年4月25日]

Air 17 / ユルカナイ

[作者近況]
毎回最終回の勢いで描いてきたのでなんたかヒノときませんが 次号で最終回です。
なので 今月のIKKIの表紙が「G戦～」だとは夢にも思っていませんでした。幸せです IKKI。

[突っ込み]
IKKIの表紙は福父江慎氏にデザインして頂きました。
オリジナルはこの第3巻のカバーに使いたかったので お蔵入り深海和歌氏に。どちらも素敵です。

[月刊IKKI7月号 2003年5月24日]

Air 18 / オワラナイ

[作者近況]
第1話を描いていた頃の自分に「そのうちいいことあるからがんばれよ」と言いたいです。スタッフさん IKKI編集部の皆様 そして今ここを読んでくださっている読者様のおかげで最終回まで辿り着けました。キャラクターの寿命を全うできて とても嬉しいです。ありがとうございました！

[突っ込み]
「上編集長 初代担当ラライン 2代目担当ユメタロさん このお三方のおかげで『G戦～』は本当に自由に描かせてもらえました。
途中 IKKI職業軍が独立することでラインが外れたのは残念でしたが 交代した担当さんがユメタロさんで 本当によかったと思っています。ラインには漫画に対する希望をユメタロさんには厳しを頂きました。
お二方はまさにモチベーション担当。編集者として尊敬致しております。そして打ち切り寸に最後まで見守ってくれた「上編集長に感礼。
読者様とスタッフの皆様には心の中で大感謝奈開催中です。本当にありがとうございました

[月刊IKKI8月号 2003年6月25日]

Air 00 / クイカナイ

単行本にすると全3巻なので そんなに長いお話ではありませんが 18話すべて全力で作りました。初めて自分の希望の最終回を迎えられて 感無量です。
「漫画家」という職業があるなら 「読者家」「編集家」という言葉を作りたい。この作品はそんな方々に支えられて 描いてこれました。
お引越や本棚の整理の際に こんなのあったなー と捨てる前に少しでも読み返して頂けるマンガになったらいいなあと思います
IKKIという雑誌は私にとってのヘヴノストアです。
ここまで読んでくださって本当にありがとうございました。

あとがきにかえて

高校生の頃 ヤプーズの『赤い戦車』を聴いて[illegible]ときました。
漫画のような「もの」が作れるようになったとしたら 多分その頃だと思います。

わたしはとても頭が悪くて不器用で 上手く気持ちを伝えられずによくもがいていて[illegible]
慰めても励ましてもくれない ただ生きていく執念のような戸川純さんのその歌詞を
頭の中で呪文のように唱うと不思議と心が落ち着くようになりました。

その頃から『赤い戦車』はわたしの中だけで自分の主題歌になったのです。

多分わたしは絵を描ける人ではないのです。
絵だけで漫画を作れたことは多分ないのです。
漫画家だと名乗るのもおこがましいのかもしれません。

しゃあどんなもので漫画を作っているかというと
たまに、本当にたまにですが 一瞬だけ
この世のほんの一部の実存と構造がわかる瞬間があって
それを切り落として描かずにはいられなくなるのです。

その時のわたしは、信じてもらえないかもしれませんが
典さとは真逆の 無に近い状態でいるのです。

ほんとうに 穏やかな気持ちでいるのです。

そういうもので、できていると思うのです。
久美子も、鉄男も、町蔵も。

2003ぁ20 日本橋ヨヲコ拝

赤い血液

水彩画より油絵の最固した色味にも似た
迷いなく確固たる動かぬ血の色の野望

Red Bloods The Will Is
たえざる意志の保持なり

×1　重ねて同じ色を塗り続け幾たびになろう
しかして立体化した型状の絵すなわち成就

×2　辛酸はたいたいの
Its Not More Red Than My Hard Will

突き上げるあつい想いが描きなくった血の色の
ペイノティノグス　まるでキューブな自己実現
生きるために生まれたんたと確信する色

×1　×2　Repeat

傷を染める清あな赤　厳選するほど傷は癒える
ペイノティノグス　赤く輝く血は源泉
死人しゃないってこれほどまでに確信する色

突き上げるあつい想いが描きなくった血の色の
ヘイノティノグス　まるてキューブな自己実現
生きるために生まれたんだと確信する色

Illustration　木内幸

G戦場ヘヴンズドア　3集

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訣別した長谷川鉄男　彼がひとりで
描き上げたマンガ作品は連載を獲得、
瞬く間に圧倒的な人気を得る　その
一方で町蔵は
自身か多くの
人々に支え
れてい たことに気 き　あくまでも自分
のペースてマンガを描き始めていた
別々の道をそれぞれのやり方で歩み始
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